

Majority of Israel favours Likud-Labour government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Nearly 60 per cent of Israelis would prefer a joint government of the Likud and Labour parties that excluded small extremist factions, said a public opinion survey published Wednesday.

Labour broke off coalition negotiations Tuesday with the Likud, but leaders of both parties hinted Wednesday that a resumption of contacts was possible.

The poll published by the Haaretz daily was based on a telephone survey of 506 Israelis conducted by the private Telstar Institute over two days this week.

It showed nearly 60 per cent wanted an exclusive Likud-Labour government that would change the country's electoral system and call new elections, the newspaper said. It did not give an exact number or a margin of error for the survey.

The poll also was carried by the mass-circulation Maariv daily, which said most supporters of a joint government were left-wing voters who feared extremist religious and anti-peace policies could be expected from a right-wing cabinet.

Likud leader and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been charged with forming Israel's next government, after his party outpolled Labour 40-39 in the Nov. 1 elections.

Aides said Tuesday that Shamir hoped to build a cabinet by next week. But negotiations have grown complicated with the seven small religious and ultra-right-wing factions whose support Shamir needs to claim a majority in the 120-member parliament.

Several of the militant parties are vying for control of the powerful housing ministry which would enable them to build more Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The religious parties are also demanding a "who is a Jew" law that would accept only conversions to Judaism carried out by orthodox rabbis. The proposal has angered American Jewish leaders, raising concern about a possible erosion of crucial support for Israel in the United States.

After meeting Israeli leaders, Morton Kornreich, U.S. national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, told reporters he believed a "unity" government could prevent the change in the law.

"If the major parties get together, this can be avoided."

President Chaim Herzog called on Shamir to include Labour in a broad-based government, but Labour officials broke off talks about a joint government after

Likud refused to concede two out of the three key ministries, defence, foreign affairs and finance.

Labour also sought a more clear-cut commitment by Likud to working for a resumption of Middle East peace talks.

Many, however, saw Labour's move primarily as a bargaining tactic and there were signs Wednesday that leaders of both parties were manoeuvring back to the negotiating table.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted by Israel Radio as saying his party "did not speak of severing contacts but only of halting them."

Cabinet Minister Moshe Arens, who is in charge of Likud's negotiating strategy, said on the radio that the talks could be renewed. "If the other side has the goodwill and the willingness to invest time and effort I think it is possible," he said.

Hawkish Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, a leading far-right member of the Likud, was also quoted as saying he hoped the contacts with Labour would be resumed.

The Maariv newspaper also quoted Shamir as saying he wanted the talks resumed and that he was willing to consider relinquishing the foreign ministry portfolio to Labour.

Israeli newspapers were divided about the prospects of a joint government.

"The last word hasn't been said," Maariv wrote in an editorial. "Even opponents can find some logic to a Likud-Labour

hook-up, if both these parties as a government can prevent the disintegration of unity in our people."

Other newspapers said prospects of Labour and Likud getting together again appeared slim. "Labour will go the opposition benches," the *Yediot Ahronot* daily speculated.

"There is no shame in going into opposition," Labour cabinet minister Ezer Weizman said Tuesday. Labour ministers agreed at a three-hour meeting to put the question to a party vote Thursday, Israel Radio said.

"We must serve the people in opposition," said Labour Member of Parliament Haim Ramon.

The Labour ministers denied the move was a tactic to draw concessions from Likud but sources in both parties refused to rule out the possibility. It took seven weeks before they decided to join forces four years ago.

Speaker elected

Dov Siblansky, a 64-year-old member of Likud, was elected speaker, 64 to 55, Monday at the first meeting of parliament, since the elections.

His selection reflected the rising power among Israeli right-wing and Jewish religious parties. An editorial Tuesday in the *Jerusalem Post* said he was "a dubious choice" or speaker.

In a speech accepting the job, Siblansky promised the 120 members he would do his best to represent them all, but many had their doubts.

Turkey protests to Iran over expulsions

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Wednesday it had protested to Iran for ordering the expulsion of two Turkish diplomats and believed Tehran's action could harm relations.

The displeasure over the move... and the discomfort it can lead to have been expressed in a message from Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to the Iranian premier, (Mir-Hossein Mousavi), said Foreign Ministry spokesman Iman Batu.

Batu said Iran Sunday ordered the Turkish diplomats to leave within three days, accusing them of engaging in activities not compatible with their diplomatic status.

"The decision is apparently linked to the deportation of two Iranian diplomats who were asked to leave Turkey after being involved in a kidnap incident Oct. 22," he said.

He said that Iran's decision to retaliate by expelling the Turkish diplomats was not based on a valid reason.

"That means accepting Israel's right to exist," he said. "We feel they were trying to break a stalemate."

Peace Now urges talks with PLO

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Peace Now movement Wednesday called for negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), becoming the first large Israeli group to welcome the PLO's implicit recognition of Israel.

"In Algiers the PLO abandoned the path of rejection and... adopted the path of political compromise," said an ad by the group in the English-language daily *Jerusalem Post*.

"The government of Israel must call for direct negotiations with the PLO on the basis of mutual recognition and cessation of violence," it said.

"Only through negotiations will we know if the PLO has really adopted the path of peace."

The Peace Now statement comes after the Israeli government denounced the PLO's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, issued along with its declaration of independence last week in Algiers.

Israeli officials called the PLO statement "double talk" aimed at giving an appearance of moderation without clearly recognising Israel and completely renouncing "terrorism."

Peace Now, founded in 1978 to push for peace with Egypt, has often challenged the government. It was instrumental in forcing Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon by massing tens of thousands of supporters to record its vote.

The United States and many other Western members were among those abstaining.

Morocco, which claims sovereignty over Western Sahara, has refused to hold direct talks with the PLO and its guerrilla movement, whose forces have been battling the Moroccans for a dozen years.

The assembly resolution reaffirmed that the question was one of decolonisation that remained to be completed on a basis of the people's right to self-determination to take the plunge."

"The PLO declaration doesn't say everything we'd like it to say, but they seem to be reaching a watershed and moving in a particular direction we have to move," she said.

She said that while the PLO statement does not directly recognise Israel, it condemns "terrorism," calls for negotiations and accepts the principle of partitioning mandatory Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

"There is a political consensus to stop information from coming out," Elisha Shpiegelman, head of the journalists association, told about 300 people during a rally in occupied Jerusalem. Other meet-

Vassiliou, Denktash said still far apart

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The leaders of the two Cypriot communities remain far apart despite extensive talks over the past two months on reunifying their divided island, the U.N. secretary general said to have concluded.

A reliable source said the U.N. chief offered this evaluation at a joint meeting Tuesday with President George Vassiliou, leader of the Greek Cypriots, and Rauf Denktash, head of the Turkish Cypriot community.

The meeting was to discuss the results of nearly 40 hours of talks the two leaders have held in Nicosia since Sept. 15 under the auspices of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative, Oscar Camilon.

The talks were aimed at trying to reunite the island, virtually partitioned since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 after a short-lived coup engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The secretary general scheduled separate meetings Wednesday with Vassiliou and Denktash before hosting a joint working lunch. He held separate preliminary meeting with the two men Monday.

A key element of the U.N. chief's assessment was that, although the two leaders had developed a good working relationship, the positions of the two sides remained far apart, the source said.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Test-tube quadruplets born in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A 36-year-old Egyptian woman has given birth to test-tube quadruplets, and all four were reported doing "okay" Wednesday, 24 hours after their arrival. Dr. Mohammad Abu Ghar, the unidentified woman's gynaecologist, told the AP that the babies were two months premature. They are the Middle East's first quadruplets born after their mother underwent in-vitro fertilisation, and fewer than 10 such quadruplet births have been reported worldwide. Abu Ghar said one of the babies born in 1984 in the United States. Abu Ghar said one of the babies weighed 1.5 kilograms at birth, two were 1.35 kilograms, and the fourth was 1.3 kilograms. He said the babies had not yet been named and refused to give the parents' names.

Ozal assailant sentenced to 20 years

ANKARA (R) — A gunman who tried to kill Prime Minister Turgut Ozal was jailed for 20 years by Turkey's state security court Wednesday, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. Kartal Demirag, 32, an alleged rightist, shot Ozal in the hand during a congress of the ruling Motherland Party in June. He had apologised for the attack at an earlier court appearance Oct. 31. "I apologise to Prime Minister Ozal. What I did was wrong. He is a good man," he said.

Top PFLP-GC man held in W. Germany

KARLSRUHE (R) — West German police who arrested a Palestinian guerrilla leader found arms, explosives and a bomb hidden in a car radio, the federal attorney's office said. Spokesman Alexander Preschel said Tuesday Hafez Kassem Dalkamoni, security and foreign section chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC), based in Damascus, was one of 14 suspects held in raids across West Germany late last month. After the raids, security sources said everything pointed to planned attacks outside West Germany, possibly on Israel or U.S. targets.

Nyerere leaves Iran after unity plea

NICOSIA (R) — Non-aligned leader Julius Nyerere left Iran Wednesday after calling for more unity between Third World states. The Iranian news agency IRNA said Nyerere, the head of the Non-Aligned Movement's South-South Commission and former Tanzanian president, was seen off by Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. IRNA said Iran would join the commission and it quoted Nyerere as saying he hoped this would improve unity in the organisation.

Cordovez to be replaced in Afghan talks

LONDON (R) — The U.N. envoy who mediated the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is likely to be replaced in talks aimed at reconciling the Kabul government and Afghan guerrillas. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was quoted Wednesday as saying the Independent newspaper quoted Perez de Cuellar as saying he would take an active role in efforts to end fighting and to create an interim government acceptable to all. Asked if U.N. special representative Diego Cordovez would be replaced in the internal settlement talks, he replied: "Yes, I think so." He said Cordovez would continue to oversee the withdrawal of Soviet troops and other aspects of Afghan agreement. Cordovez resigned from his U.N. post at the office of special political affairs earlier this year to become foreign minister of Ecuador.

France sold arms to Iran under Chirac

PARIS (AP) — The weekly Canard Enchainé newspaper reported Tuesday that a French weapons company kept selling artillery shells to Iran during conservative Premier Jacques Chirac's administration, even though France denied the sales. The weapons manufacturer Luchaire allegedly sold shells to Iran during a time when French government officials said Paris wasn't providing Tehran with weapons, the newspaper reported. Luchaire President Daniel Dewarivens told an investigating judge that "after March 1986, deliveries to Iran continued," the newspaper reported.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77411-14

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ... Koran Programme review

16:45 ... Children's programmes

17:30 ... Local programme

18:45 ... News summary

19:45 ... Local programme

20:45 ... News summary

21:45 ... News summary in Arabic

22:45 ... News in Arabic

23:10 ... Arabic series

23:45 ... News in Arabic

24:00 ... Newsdesk

24:45 ... Arabic series

25:00 ... News in Arabic

25:45 ... Newsdesk

26:00 ... Arabic series

Queen Noor to present essay competition awards

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four Jordanian winners of an essay competition commemorating T.S. Eliot's one hundredth anniversary will be handed prizes by Her Majesty Queen Noor on Nov. 26, 1988, at the British Council, where she will open an exhibition about Eliot.

The essay competition, entitled "T.S. Eliot — His Relevance Today," was organised by the British Council in celebration of the life and works of the most influential Anglo-American poet.

Among the most famous of Eliot's literary contributions are the Book of Practical Cats which was turned into a musical in the 1970s, the Wasteland a poem that brought him fame and his essay Towards the Definition of Culture. In these and other contributions Eliot concentrated on the human experience from which emanated universal truths in a very simple and direct language a

Princess Sarvath opens kimono show

By Suhaib Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Wednesday opened a Japanese kimono fashion show at the Inter-Continental Hotel.

The show was organised by the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) and the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with the Japanese embassy.

At the outset of the show, the YWMA representative thanked Princess Sarvath for her patronage and then introduced the kimono to the audience.

Kimono is the Japanese wrap-

around cloth, with rectangular sleeves used by both men and women. It is made of vertical panels of cloth stitched together and is bound with a sash (obi).

Today, most women wear the kimono mainly for social and ceremonial events, or when performing certain traditional arts.

Mrs. Shizue Takizawa, a kimono contemporary artist, organised the show as part of an around-the-world tour to revive the kimono tradition.

"The kimono is a costume full of subtle ties that we would like to hand out to future generations, not merely fashion," she said.

During the show, the audience

was introduced to the very complex method of dressing a royal bride in a special kind of kimono.

In graceful moves, with light Japanese music in the background, Mrs. Takizawa and an assistant wrapped a model with layers and layers of very fine cloth. Within minutes, the bride was expertly dressed in an exquisite gown.

The show also includes kimonos (Shichigosan) for children; kimonos for single women (Furisode); followed by kimonos for the bride (Hanagone), the groom (Hanamiko) and the go-between (Nakodo). The go-between is a matchmaker who arranges the marriage for the couple.

The highlight of the show was a special demonstration by Takizawa of tying obi sash bows in the shape of flowers which were her own designs.

Most Japanese obi are tied into either a flat diamond bow or a simple butterfly knot.

Skilfully and to the beat of Arabic music, Takizawa created fabulus shapes of a chrysanthemum, an anthurium and a pansy.

At the end of the show, Takizawa presented a commemorative gift to Princess Sarvath and thanked her for hosting the show in Jordan.

The show will be repeated at the Amman Baccalaureate School Thursday, Nov. 24, and at the Royal Cultural Centre Friday, Nov. 25. Proceeds will go to the YWMA's Special Education Centre.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONDOLES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, delegated the director of his office to convey his condolences to the Dakhaqan family on the death of the late Ahmad Abdulla Dakhaqan, the brother of Omar Abdullah Dakhaqan, and to convey his condolences to Al Rawabdeh family on the death of late Salem Al Rawabdeh, father of Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh. (Petra)

PUBLIC GARDEN INAUGURATED: A JD 3,000 public garden was opened Wednesday at Grandal in the Tafileh Governorate on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. On the same occasion a post office branch was also inaugurated at Rashadieh.

REMOTE SENSING CENTRE: Prospects for the establishment of a remote sensing centre in Jordan were reviewed here Wednesday by Canadian experts and technicians and officials from the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC). Questions related to the supply of equipment and the training of Jordanian personnel to take charge of the projected centre were discussed in implementation of a Canadian-Jordanian agreement. (Petra)

TAFILEH EDUCATION PROJECTS: Tafileh Education Department announced Wednesday that educational projects worth JD 2.5 million were completed over the past two years. It said that the projects included schools, and vocational centres at Ain Al Baida, Qadisieh, and Tafileh city. (Petra)

POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE: A ceremony was held here Wednesday to graduate the second batch of police officers after completing a rigorous training course at the Kafraim military camp in the Jordan Valley region. They were trained in the use of light arms on a large scale. The graduates, who trained in different military skills under very difficult conditions, presented a performance of their skills before the audience and later received their diplomas from the Public Security Department's Military Brigade Commander Brig. Salman Al Ma'aitah. (Petra)

KAHR MEETS CHINESE TEAM: A Chinese parliamentary delegation Wednesday arrived in Amman from Cairo en route for Damascus. Parliament Secretary General Hani Khair received the delegation at the airport. (Petra)

NIMR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday received the credentials of Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nabil Al Nimr. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Meguid and other senior officials were present during the ceremony. (Petra)

NEW MAYORS: The council of ministers Wednesday endorsed the appointment of Hamad Al Fa'our, Mohammad Al Zou'bi, Taha Arsalan, and Farouq Jreisat as mayors of Deir Alla, Kbarja, Al Soukhne, and Fuheis respectively. (Petra)

DELEGATION TO MOSCOW: The Council of Ministers Wednesday endorsed the formation of the Jordanian side to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Soviet Economic Committee which is scheduled to convene in Moscow on Nov. 28. The secretary general of the Industry and Trade Ministry will head the committee which will discuss means to develop and reinforce economic cooperation. (Petra)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL: The Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives will hold a book festival in Amman marking the official opening of the public library Monday. (Petra)

Princess Basma to open Watani club bazaar today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Watani Sporting Club in Amman will open its annual bazaar Thursday, Nov. 24, 1988 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The bazaar, which will open formally for the public on Friday, is being organised in the course of

VTC organises seminar on use of asbestos in industry

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the use of asbestos pipes for a number of purposes was organised in Amman Wednesday by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and the Canadian embassy in Amman.

A Canadian embassy representative delivered a speech at the seminar, attended by officials and technicians, commending cooperation between Jordan and Canada in overcoming industrial problems.

The director of a Canadian asbestos institute, Dr. F. Mansour, made a speech underlining the importance of the joint efforts by the institute and the VTC's

Occupational Safety and Health Institute in Jordan, especially in industrial fields.

He said that his institute will continue to provide Jordan with assistance to help it promote the use of asbestos for different purposes.

The seminar discussed a host of subjects pertaining to the use of asbestos in building and industry, and precautions to be used to ensure safety for workers.

The seminar entitled Asbestos Cement Pipe Seminar was attended by 63 participants from the private and public sectors in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Brass plates exhibition by Hatch Loulou at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at Al Ra'ed Al Arabi School, Shmeisani.
- ★ An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Amman Today In Photos" by Haitham Jweinat at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The annual fall exhibition of the Ban Hamida Women Rugs in South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley starting Friday 10:00 - 4:30.

BAZAAR

- ★ The Annual Bazaar of the Watani Sporting Club presenting handicrafts, foods and children games — opens Thursday at 4:00 p.m. and Friday at 10:00 a.m.

FILM

- ★ An Italian film entitled "Agenti Speciali Onu Missioni Eiffel" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:00 p.m.

French week to highlight latest techniques used in civil aviation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The French week, which opens here Sunday, is bound to offer Jordanians a chance to sample food and wine from France and acquaint themselves with the latest techniques used in the field of civil aviation.

The French week, which continues through Dec. 1 at the Marriott Hotel has been organised in cooperation with the French embassy and Air France.

Representatives of seven French corporations will display their latest lines in aeronautics, vehicles and telecommunications,

through stands, videos and models.

A children's fashion show will be put up; and visitors will be able to see porcelains, clothes and perfumes in fifteen showcases. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, described the event as one that can promote trade between France and Jordan.

One of the most significant functions will be Air France's permanent multivision projection to be shown on a giant screen.

Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabhaa will inaugurate

the French week which will feature also a special dinner honouring the famous soccer player Michel Platini and the proceeds will benefit charity in Jordan.

France is the second major European importer of Jordanian phosphate, potash, vegetables and fruit.

France's contributions to the Kingdom in the last decade amounted to 77 million francs, mostly benefiting projects in transport, telecommunications and aeronautics.

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in a two-day meeting of the Arab ministers of transport executive council to discuss a pan-Arab transport strategy and other important issues.

The council's meeting, which opened here Wednesday, was expected to discuss the setting up of a pan-Arab corporation to classify vessels and Israel's intention to launch a satellite.

Also to be discussed is the question of updating inter-Arab cooperation in transport affairs and the manufacture of equipment and components used in transport.

New marketing, sales director at the Amman Marriott Hotel

JOINING the Amman Marriott Hotel from the Amsterdam Marriott, Mr. Jan Heesbeen has been appointed as the new marketing and sales director.

When asked his goals for his new assignment, Mr. Heesbeen says "personally, I'm looking forward to learning about Jordan and its wonderful rich culture. For us Europeans, the sunshine, beautiful weather, friendly people and atmosphere is nearly paradise."

Fluent in Dutch, English, German, French and eager to learn Arabic, Mr. Heesbeen has more than 8 years of major European hotel experience with a strong background in systems and administration. "Mr. Heesbeen brings a strong touch of Europe to us

here in the Amman Marriott Hotel," said Mr. Ghassan Ismail, resident manager.

Jan Heesbeen

here in the Amman Marriott Hotel," said Mr. Ghassan Ismail, resident manager.

PLAZA

Friday

Sunday & everyday

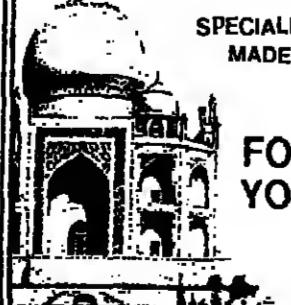
LUNCH BUFFET
at the
COFFEE SHOP



JD. 5.500pp

Saturday

INDIAN NIGHT
ENJOY
OUR DELICIOUS
INDIAN
BUFFET
SPECIALY
MADE
FOR
YOU



JD. 6.000pp

Sunday

LOBSTER NIGHT
At the
ANDALUSIA



Seafood Hors D'oeuvres
Lobster Imperial
Strawberry Pancakes
Coffee & Petit Fours
JD. 8.000pp

Monday

PRIME RIB NIGHT
at the
COFFEE SHOP

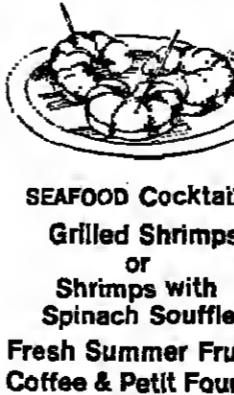


Prime Rib,
Yorkshire Pudding
Baked Potato
Garden Peas
Followed by
Apple Pie & Cream
JD. 4.500pp

TIMES

Tuesday

SHRIMP NIGHT
at the
ANDALUSIA



SEAFOOD Cocktail
Grilled Shrimps
or
Shrimps with
Spinach Souffle
Fresh Summer Fruits
Coffee & Petit Fours
JD. 8.000pp

Wednesday

Spanish Speciality
Paella Night
at the
COFFEE SHOP
VEGETABLE & SAFFRON SOUP
SEAFOOD PAELLA
WITH GREEN SALAD



Sweets from our Buffet
JD. 4.500pp

Thursday

SEAFOOD NIGHT
at the
ANDALUSIA



Set Menu
or
ALA CARTE
Every THURSDAY
JD. 8.000pp

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A look inward for Lebanon

THE BOOM of heavy guns echoes through the capital and the streets are soon stained with blood; a divided army stages separate ceremonies in the same uniform but attended by rival officers; Israeli jets zoom in and bomb targets in the south, leaving behind dead bodies and devastation. What a novel way to celebrate a country's independence day; but that was how indeed Lebanon marked the gracious occasion.

The frequent spasms of violence have become so much of a way for Lebanon that the deaths of a dozen, whether in factional clashes or in Israeli air raids, do not draw more than a casual headline. The indifference to happenings in Lebanon has grown to such an extent that people just shrug off news of clashes and bloodshed, whether in Beirut, the south or north.

How long will it continue? The heads of the rival governments in Beirut appear to be more than confident that the country can survive the crisis. But can it, really? The worst part of the situation is the indifference of Lebanese themselves to the disintegration of their country, once famous for its industrious people and strong economy. Almost everyone blames external factors for the calamity that has befallen the country, but little consideration is given to the reality that a solution to the problem has to come from within the Lebanese community.

The Arab World stands ready to help Lebanon and pull it back to its feet, but the Lebanese themselves have to take the initiative.

What the Lebanese need today is an inward look, a look into themselves with tough questions. As long as they do not come with honest answers there is little chance of success for any move, pan-Arab or otherwise, towards realising the cherished dream of a reunited Lebanon back in its rightful place in the Arab ranks.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Wednesday wrote about His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafez Al Assad in the course of Jordan's continued consultations with Arab countries in the light of recent developments in the region. The outcome of the Israeli elections which brought the Likud back to government, the U.S. presidential elections which brought Bush to the White House and the worsening situation in Lebanon all warrant intensified contacts among Arab leaders, the paper noted. It said that the King and the president had no doubt discussed means of confronting the new policies of the Likud government in Israel and dealing with the situation in Lebanon where the country is now facing further complications. The Likud's success means a further setback to the current efforts for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 358 at an international peace conference, the paper added. It said that the Arabs should maintain their contacts and consensus on means of dealing with the common issues.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday discusses the Israeli air raids on Lebanon and criticises the Arab Nation's lack of action against such practice. The raids have far-reaching goals other than taking revenge on the Palestinian people, the columnist, Abdul Rahim Omar, points out. He says that Israel's acts of aggression are clearly designed to weaken the Arab people in Lebanon and consecrate the partition of that country. Whenever Israel used to commit aggression on Lebanon, the Lebanese forces turned their wrath against the Palestinians instead of confronting the external danger, the columnist explains. He says that even when the Israelis invaded Lebanon and besieged Beirut, the Lebanese Forces moved against the Palestinians instead of confronting the invaders. At present the Lebanese people find themselves helpless as they watch the Israelis maintaining fierce raids on their country and continue to occupy the southern regions of Lebanon. Omar continues. The Israelis aim through their raids to keep their northern neighbour in total disarray living in a partitioned land and unable to protect their rights and interests, Omar adds. He calls on the Arab Nation to find a formula through which to help the Lebanese reach a settlement and liberate their land from Israeli occupation.

Al Dustour daily describes King Hussein's visit to Damascus Tuesday as another link in the monarch's long series of efforts to consolidate Arab consensus which was launched at the Amman summit conference last year. The King has succeeded in initiating joint Arab efforts at the regional and international levels through his continued and relentless endeavours crowned at the Amman summit meeting, the paper noted. It said that the visit to Damascus was another form of Jordan's drive to serve as a bridge bringing about understanding among Arab states and uniting their efforts to serve the higher national interests.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also discussed the King's visit to Damascus and his meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The paper said that the King is keen on benefiting from all chances to promote the cause of peace and his efforts are continuing at the Arab level to achieve that goal. The recent Jordanian move of severing ties with the West Bank paved the way for the PLO to proclaim the independent Palestinian state and the monarch's continued support for the Palestinian people will never end until they achieve their national rights, the paper added.

The following is the second part of a two part series on force of change taken from the book: *Winning the Human Race*, the final report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan launched last month during visits to London and Paris.

Modern technology

SINCE the 1970s, many people have increasingly come to fear that technological innovation matters more than preserving cultural identity or social traditions; that it will be the values of efficiency, reliability, speed and predictability that will prevail in future societies; that we must adjust to each new invention or drown in the indignity of not being modern. Much of the debate about development is turning to talk of technological revolutions capable of so radically changing the quality and characteristics of human existence that the past seems no more than a prologue to the awe-inspiring future that awaits us. Technology all too often seems enveloped in its own mystique — complex, remote, obliging us to bow down in fear and fascination.

The present concentration of highly active scientific research and of major technological achievements in a few countries should not obscure the fact that many cultures and societies have contributed to modern science, as can be seen by the study of, for instance, Chinese, Indian or Islamic sciences. Nor should prosperity be attributed to scientific achievements alone: colonisation of new lands and the exploitation of their wealth contributed to the economic growth of a few countries and increased the gap between them and the rest of the world.

Modern science and technology derive their prestige from their contribution to economic growth in the industrialised countries. Only a few countries are in the forefront of advancing new technologies; others are essentially adapting to changes originating elsewhere. However, for large low-income countries, such as Brazil, China or India, there is a substantial capacity for indigenous development of a wide range of technologies. For small states, options may be more limited but are by no means closed. In fact, some of the smaller states are doing very well in relative terms.

Technological innovation has been vital to economic growth by raising the productivity of human, capital and natural resources. However, the relation between technology and growth is a very complex one. Technological advance does not necessarily imply scientific progress nor does it always mean economic growth. Technological inventions are

tools which, according to the way they are used, widen or narrow our scope for action, and enhance or diminish our control over resources. The changes they are now bringing about give rise to strong and often conflicting emotions. There is apprehension that the new technologies will be ecologically and socially disruptive, but also hope that the power and speed of technological change in communications may bring nations closer and foster a positive multi-lateralism.

An optimistic view is that less industrialised countries will be able to benefit greatly from advanced science and technology and could reduce the economic gap between them and the richer countries while bypassing many historical technological stages. Reference is often made in this respect of four broad categories of new technologies: micro-electronics, bio-technology, new materials technology and new energy sources including nuclear energy. These technologies can be distinguished from other modern technologies by the extraordinary speed at which their application is proceeding and by their wide scope which transcends narrow sectoral boundaries.

A less optimistic view is that the benefits of modern technology may be available only to a few. Today's new technologies arise from systematic research programmes, largely funded by governments and major industrial companies. Advanced scientific research is no longer carried out by scientists working in isolation with a few assistants handling relatively cheap equipment and exchanging friendly letters with their peers. It has become expensive team work and its potential benefits are of such magnitude that secrecy is rigidly maintained.

The development of science and technology poses intrinsically humanitarian issues. On its outcome depends an increase or decrease in human suffering now and in the future. Human beings are endowed with potential creativity but can realise it only in certain cultural, social and economic contexts. Humanitarianism therefore aims not only at limiting the harmful effects of science and technology and re-directing the benefits of innovations to the most deprived in society, but also at removing the obstacles to creativity so as to multiply sources of innovations in all contexts, societies and cultures.

The potential of modern technological advances to contribute

to meeting the basic needs of people throughout the world has yet to be fully explored. A humanitarian approach to science and technology demands greater priority for products and services intended to meet the needs of the poor. These include improving water supply and sewage disposal techniques; lower cost construction, transportation and renewable energy, especially for rural households; drought and pest-resistant, high-yielding agricultural crops, especially of food indigenous to developing countries; and finally greater emphasis on measures to eliminate debilitating diseases and improve access to health care. A humanitarian approach also requires that, to the extent possible, new technology is introduced after genuine and full consultation with those likely to be affected by it.

Transnationals in the global economy

A CONCERN for the welfare of human-beings necessarily involves a concern for their material welfare. This concern lies at the root of the effort for development in the Third World. The fulfillment of the potential of every individual which is the ultimate goal of development cannot occur without a minimum level of material well-being. Below that level, both the rights and the powers of the individual are so restricted that effective choices to initiate personal development cannot be made.

Nothing illustrates better the global reach of current commercial methods than the activities of the transnational corporations. Transnationals, broadly defined, are the largest private commercial concerns on earth. The total value of foreign direct investment by transnationals in 1986 was over \$700 billion, with annual flows totalling about \$50 billion, only one-quarter of which went to developing countries. With the growing globalisation of capital markets, there is vast potential for transnational investment.

However, the social and humanitarian implications of the globalisation of the economy have been by and large ignored while the financial power of transnationals continues to increase. It is estimated that the total capitalisation of markets for bonds, equities, precious metals, and mortgages is \$11 trillion. Transnationals, particularly in their relationship to developing countries, pose special problems of a humanitarian nature.

Transnationals operate in a territory of their own definition both within and between nations. Though private, non-governmental and operated for the profit of

individuals, they often possess the high degree of organisation as well as the access to sophisticated technology and massive capital resources more typical of governments than of private individuals. They have established international networks of related companies, each of which may possess substantial economic power in the country — very often developing — where it is located. The fact that some transnational corporations have financial turnovers in excess of the public expenditure budgets and sometimes even the gross national products of quite a few smaller developing countries, gives them a power in some cases as great or greater than that of national governments. From a humanitarian viewpoint, this power gives transnationals a potential for either contributing to human welfare or causing human misery.

Developing countries have looked with suspicion on these giants because they are motivated primarily by private profit rather than the interest of national development or individual human welfare. Nonetheless transnationals are often a valuable source of capital, technology and management expertise which developing countries badly need.

Over the years developing countries have gradually gained experience in dealing with transnationals. The call for an improved regime of foreign investment based on mutual interest has on the whole been heeded, although some difficulties remain and the hoped-for increase, in private capital flows so necessary to developing countries has not occurred.

Transnationals have sometimes been the targets of well-founded criticism for their labour practices. They have also been accused of industrial pollution. The grim example of the catastrophe in Bhopal has alerted the world to the potential hazards of industrial disasters.

It is essential that transnationals should demonstrate a high degree of social responsibility, in accordance with their privileged situation as "guests" concerns outside their own countries and operating across borders. In such situations, the formulation of codes of conduct agreed by all parties concerned has been shown to be advantageous. Such codes of conduct should be based upon the core values of an international humanitarian ethic.

Furthermore, a multilateral code of conduct elaborated and monitored by the United Nations, which seeks to define standards to be observed by both transnationals and governments, would be a valuable advance in multilateral cooperation and in the acceptance of humanitarian

values as one of the motivating forces.

The media

THE INCREASING influence of the media — the press, broadcasting and films — is a feature of our contemporary global society. It has grown dramatically with the introduction of new technologies for communication, and for the reproduction, transmission and dissemination of information. For historical reasons, however, the major news agencies which collect and transmit news across the globe are mainly Western owned. This phenomenon of Western dominance has been strengthened by the emergence of radio and television, with their requirements of substantial capital outlays in the form of production facilities, transmitters and technical expertise.

The arrival on the international scene after 1945 of the independent countries of the Third World, with different national perspectives and priorities, has led to calls for a more balanced network of news flows, to reduce alien dominance. However, there are suspicions that this initiative may mask a desire by some Third World governments for increased control, censorship and manipulation of news and information.

In most developing countries, radio is widely used and is the most effective medium of mass communication due to the relatively low cost of output and receivers. The spread of transmitters throughout the Third World is an important phenomenon of our time. Many Third World governments, in their centrally planned countries, own or control a substantial part of their national press as well as radio and television systems.

The position of the media raises issues which are important for human well-being. One is the relationship between free means of expression, such as the media, and individual freedom. A free press contributes substantially both to the creation and maintenance of a free and democratic society.

However, in view of the influence of the media it is appropriate to raise questions about social responsibility. Criticisms are often made about such matters as selectivity, lack of balance, trivialisation and sensationalism. For example, a responsible attitude

towards women, who are so often the subject of media exploitation and stereotyping, is essential. The media have a further responsibility to avoid national stereotyping and nationalistic bias. In developing societies, which are often struggling to overcome massive human problems of poverty, unemployment and lack of adequate health care, the media have a special educational role. Equally, the Western media which have the most powerful global reach, have also the greatest responsibility to foster internationalism. The modern media can either increase our awareness of the total human situation, or help to perpetuate attitudes of racial and sexual stereotyping and outdated nationalisms, thereby increasing divisions and disputes within communities and impeding national development and advances towards internationalism.

The rise of expectations, fuelled by the television of the North, is already contributing in the Third World to the growth of a very consumer-oriented middle class. The media are sometimes open to charges of neglecting more abstract or complex issues which nevertheless bear directly on the everyday lives of people — for example, the debt crisis in the Third World with its consequences for the urban and rural poor. Here too, the media can make a humanitarian contribution by investigating and exposing structural defects in the global political, economic and social systems.

The communications satellites which are so instrumental in increasing the cohesion of our global electronic village, and hold such rich potential for the future, are also bringing into being a new era of television and a more vivid trans-border flow of information.

Television via satellite can spread knowledge of different cultures. But it can also put the cultures of smaller, poorer and weaker countries at risk. There is a need for the more vulnerable cultures to be protected in the face of the random importation via satellite of other cultures which may have a destructive impact. Direct broadcasting by satellite, by which the products of one country can be easily received by satellite dishes in other countries, emphasises once again that the people of the world have the means to become even closer to each other on our ever-shrinking planet.

OPEN FORUM

Time to deliver

NOW that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has formally announced in very clear terms, its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242, the last obstacle against the U.S. administration having a dialogue with the PLO has been removed. There is thus, no excuse to the American government not to join hands with the European countries, to start preparing for the convening of the international conference, if it really wishes that peace prevails again in the Land of Peace.

In this connection it may be of interest to remind the U.S. administration, of the following facts:

— The preamble of the said Security Council resolution, which is supposed to form the basis for the negotiations, states that "acquisition of land by force is not permissible."

— Lord Caradon, the architect of Security Council Resolution 242, repeatedly said that the frontiers of 1967, between Israel and the West Bank, had their lands either in Israel proper, or in no man's land, and vice versa. The phrase "occupied territories" was used in the resolution, instead of "the occupied territories" simply to take care of such anomalies. In Lord Caradon's opinion, with the present advanced and sophisticated equipment, no country in the world is secure. The best security to any country, he once said, is mutual understanding and good relations.

— Mr. William Rogers, in his capacity as secretary of state, said that "any adjustment to the frontiers between Israel and its neighbours, should be for convenience and should not carry any military or political significance".

The United States government signed in 1951, what was called the "Tripartite Declaration", together with the governments of Britain and France. Needless to say that by virtue of her signature, the U.S. government is bound to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces to the 1951 frontiers.

— Last but not the least, it should not be lost sight of, that Israel, started the 1967 war, just six days after it gave the U.S. government 14 days of grace, to enable her solve the Straits of Iran problem. Thus Israel should not be rewarded for starting the war, by giving her some slices of the Arab lands.

Name withheld upon request

Open letter

I WOULD like to submit the following "open letter" to the Minister of Labour, to be included in the Forum section of the newspaper.

I am sending a copy of the letter to the Minister's office and another copy to the Australian Ambassador. To H.E. the Minister of Labour Your Excellency,

On my own behalf and that of hundreds of colleagues, both known and unknown to me, I am writing this letter in the hope that I may draw attention to, what I perceive to be, an oversight. I am a foreigner married to a Jordanian and have lived in Jordan for ten years. I am settled and happy, though obviously there are times when I miss my beloved family and country.

I hold an Australian passport and, as much as I love my adoptive country, I cannot find it within myself to take any step that might jeopardise my birth-right. I ask for understanding on this point.

I am part of a relatively large group of women, in a similar position, who work. We contribute with our efforts to the benefit of Jordan in many ways; we are taxed and our money stays in the Kingdom. Our children are Jordanian. Our life is here.

How can it be justified to charge us JD 300 for a work permit? To be classified in the same category as a worker whose wage is sent abroad, or to be considered less of a friend than a worker from a neighbouring country.

Could one hope for a review of the situation?

Elizabeth (Dawn) Naber



EN BREF
Pakistan: une femme premier ministre

DEMOCRATIE
Les élections libres ont eu lieu le 10 novembre. Le parti de Benazir Bhutto a obtenu la victoire avec 125 sièges sur 200. Bhutto, 35 ans, devient la première femme première ministre dans un pays musulman.

Canada: Mulroney reconduit
Brian Mulroney, leader du parti conservateur canadien et premier ministre, a été reconduit pour un deuxième mandat. Il a obtenu la victoire avec 125 sièges sur 200. Le parti de l'opposition, John Turner, a obtenu 75 sièges.

Christina Onassis est morte
La fille du millionnaire grec Aristote Onassis, Christina, a été retrouvée inconsciente dans le manoir d'un ami, proche de l'ambassadeur de France, Thierry Rousset, dans les Andes. Elle a été admise à l'hôpital et a été déclarée morte le 19 novembre.

Le fils de Saddam Hussein en prison
Saddam Hussein, le fils de Saddam Hussein, a été arrêté le 21 novembre. Il a été arrêté après avoir été arrêté par les forces de sécurité irakiennes. Il a été arrêté alors qu'il était en train de faire une révolte dans la ville de Bagdad.

Pisani préside l'IMA
Edgard Pisani, proche collaborateur du président Mitterrand, a été nommé à la tête de l'Institut du monde arabe (IMA) de Paris, alors que cette institution Franco-Arabe est pratiquement paralysée. Pisani a été nommé à la tête de l'IMA pour替ir le débat sur la répartition des pouvoirs à l'IMA, notamment entre le président (français) et le directeur général (arabe), qui paralyse l'institution depuis cinq ans.

Un an au poste
Un an se trouve depuis lundi en "état d'arrestation" au poste de police de Silwan, à la périphérie de Jérusalem-Est, en début d'après-midi, une patrouille de militaires israéliens arrêtait un jeune Arabe qui chevauchait un âne sur le mont des Oliviers. Pour une raison indéterminée, les soldats se mirent à frapper le jeune Arabe qui tomba de sa monture. Celle-ci, sans doute pour solidarité, se mit à ruer et à mordre, mettant hors de combat deux militaires. Leurs camarades procédèrent alors à l'arrestation du bœuf combattif et le confièrent à la garde des policiers du poste de Silwan, où il est à réclamer.

Le saviez-vous?
Coke pas en stock

Qui dit Coca dit Pepsi ou Viva. Le Coca-Cola est en effet interdit de séjour depuis quinze ans en Jordanie et dans la plupart des pays arabes. Le boycott, décidé par la Ligue arabe, faisait suite à l'implantation d'une usine Coca-Cola, rappelle le Dr. Marallah, directeur général de la chambre d'industrie à Amman.

On évitait ainsi toute possible importation du soda mis en bouteille en Israël. Pepsi en revanche ne présente pas cet inconvénient. On trouve néanmoins du Coca-Cola à Oman et à Dubaï. Des rumeurs, officiellement démenties, font par ailleurs état d'une prochaine fabrication sous française de Coca-Cola par la firme saoudienne El-Bilad.

La reconnaissance de l'Etat palestinien

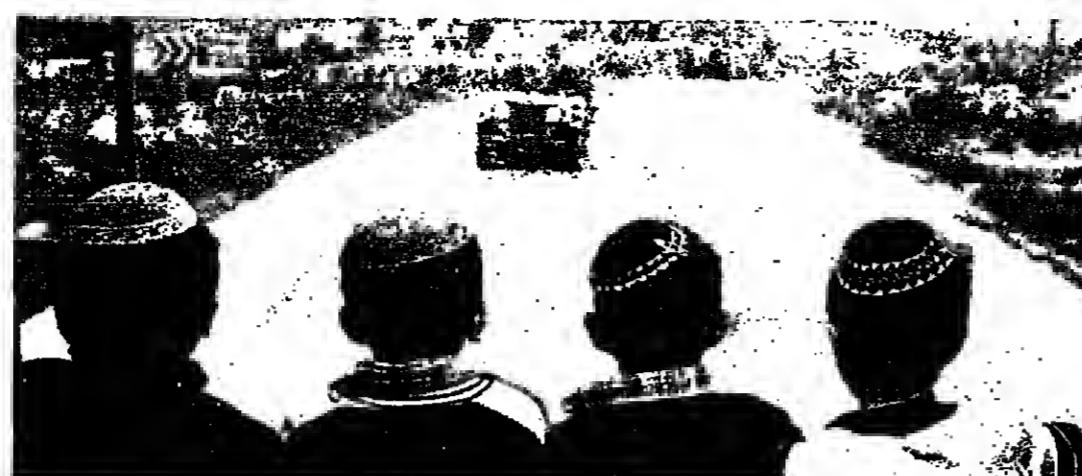
Pourquoi s'arrêter à des frontières?

L'argument de l'absence de frontières définies, mis en avant par beaucoup de gouvernements pour ne pas reconnaître le nouvel Etat palestinien indépendant, est-il valable? Karin Kneissl démonte l'argumentation. Cette étudiante autrichienne termine actuellement une thèse sur la conception des frontières au Proche-Orient. Elle rappelle qu'Israël n'a toujours pas de frontières et que cette notion est floue dans la région.

Sur les 159 Etats qui comptent la planète, seuls 40 ont reconnu l'Etat palestinien indépendant proclamé le 15 novembre à Alger. Même si beaucoup ont salué positivement la déclaration, une raison souvent invoquée pour ne pas reconnaître le nouvel Etat se résume ainsi: "Vous n'avez pas défini vos frontières", reproche-t-on aux Palestiniens.

Curieux retour de l'histoire: les Palestiniens, qui sont les premiers à invoquer ce argument, avaient eux-mêmes omis de préciser les frontières de leur Etat en 1948, s'aliénant la reconnaissance de nombreux gouvernements, et notamment celle du Vatican (le Saint-Siège n'a toujours pas de relations diplomatiques avec Israël, pour cette raison principalement).

Le droit international fonde l'existence d'un Etat sur trois critères essentiels: un peuple, un pouvoir qui exerce sa souveraineté, un territoire. Ce



Après 40 ans, Israël n'a lui-même toujours pas de frontières...

dernier se doit donc d'avoir des frontières précises. Or, dès la déclaration d'indépendance d'Israël, le 14 mai 1948, aucune mention n'est faite des frontières du nouvel Etat. Certes, le document israélien cite entre autres la résolution 181 de l'assemblée générale des Nations-Unies (29 nov. 1947), partage de la Palestine comme frontière juridique. Mais ces frontières, si minutieusement dessinées, n'ont jamais été effectives.

Fragiles limites

Entre Israël et ses quatre voisins, on ne connaît toujours aujourd'hui qu'une seule frontière "internationale", c'est à dire résultant d'un accord entre les deux parties; celle séparant Israël et l'Egypte, depuis les accords de Camp David en 1979.

La frontière sépare précisément deux Etats, dans une situation de paix et de bon voisinage. Un cas de figure

rare au Proche-Orient, où la notion pratique de frontière-region prédomine, en raison des conflits ouverts ou latents opposant notamment Juifs et Arabes. L'exemple-type est celui du Liban-sud où, dans les faits, les Israéliens ignorent délibérément la limite de souveraineté que leur impose en principe la frontière libanaise.

Difficile dans ces conditions de parler de frontières comme on le conçoit dans une Europe pacifique. Il suffit plus juste d'employer ici un terme technique utilisé par les Anglo-saxons: "frontière". On peut le traduire en français par "frontière-region", en opposition à "frontière-ligne" ("boundary" en anglais). Même si cette dernière est souvent tecnonne sur le papier, on agit concrètement comme si elle n'existe pas, et la zone de conflit devient une "frontière-region".

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La présence militaire israélienne fait du Liban-sud une frontière-region, matérialisée par la "zone de sécurité" établie par l'Etat juif. Quant aux territoires occupés, le flou est également entretenu par Israël: comment justifier l'imposition de colons dans des régions qui, par ailleurs, sont officiellement reconnues par Israël comme étrangères à son territoire?

Fait accompli

La encore, le fait accompli

l'emporte sur le fait reconnu. Et les Israéliens, tant qu'ils ne sont pas en paix avec leurs voisins, trouvent très pratique d'entretenir la confusion. Au Liban pour des raisons militaires, dans les territoires occupés par des raisons idéologiques.

Dans ces conditions, comment peut-on exiger de l'Etat palestinien nouveau-né ce que l'Etat hébreu n'a toujours pas fait en 40 ans d'existence? Les Israéliens justifient l'imprécision de leurs frontières en plaidant qu'elles "doivent faire l'objet de négociations". Le CNP ne fait rien d'autre qu'utiliser le même argument quant aux contours d'une Palestine indépendante.

Puisque les deux Etats se disputent le même territoire, veulent négocier leurs frontières. On serait tenté d'y voir le germe d'une solution. Mais le Likoud et les partis religieux démontrent au pouvoir à La Knesset veulent des négociations bilatérales, sans l'OLP, alors que Palestiniens et Etats arabes réclament une conférence internationale...

Mais avant de discuter des frontières, un préalable est indispensable: la reconnaissance par les uns du droit à exister des autres. Sur ce point, les Israéliens ont encore du chemin à faire, alors que l'OLP a implicitement fait un pas dans ce sens. Définir ses limites territoriales, c'est d'abord respecter la liberté de l'autre. Un principe bien souvent négligé dans cette région.

Karin C. Kneissl

Etat palestinien

40 reconnaissances

Une semaine après sa proclamation à Alger, l'Etat palestinien avait été reconnu par 40 pays, dont la Chine, membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité, soit le quart des 159 Etats membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

Un autre membre permanent du conseil de sécurité, l'Union soviétique, ainsi que la Tchécoslovaquie, ont pour leur part reconnu "la proclamation" de l'Etat, sans reconnaître l'Etat lui-même.

Dans une déclaration adoptée lundi à Bruxelles, les ministres des Affaires étrangères de la CEE ont estimé que les décisions prises à Alger par le Conseil national palestinien "comportent des pas positifs vers le règlement pacifique du conflit israélo-arabe".

Tous les pays arabes sauf quatre — soit 17 Etats — ont apporté leur reconnaissance. Les quatre Etats réticents sont le Liban, Oman, la Somalie et la Syrie. Les chefs des deux gouvernements rivaux au Liban ont approuvé la proclamation de l'Etat. La Syrie a approuvé le principe de l'établissement d'un Etat palestinien sans se prononcer sur les décisions du CNP d'Alger. L'Egypte a reconnu l'Etat palestinien.

SORTIR

Disco-bagarre

Les princes charmants et les Cendrillon vont-il changer de circuit le jeudi soir? Amman semble en proie à la bougeotte du côté des lieux de perdre. Il y a eu

Rumors en juin, c'est aujourd'hui l'hôtel Amra qui affiche des ambitions de mille et une nuits. Il entame les hostilités le jeudi 1er décembre, avec une soirée "disco blast". Bust est le mot: avec la sono de 15.000, bien 15.000 watts, affrétée pour l'occasion, la capitale devrait dès les premières notes être soufflée comme un vulgaire sédu de paille. Tous aux abris, donc.

Selon le directeur de l'Amra, 150 billets (5 JD) ont déjà été vendus et on attend 700 personnes dans la salle de bal. Cinq disk-jockeys, pas un de moins, s'employeront cette nuit-là à rayer leurs tambours de la carte.

Question: l'explosion saura-t-elle faire sortir de leur abri les habitués de l'incontournable Intercont., ou il ne fait pas bon être vu? Eh bien justement: des rumeurs persistantes (portiers, hôteliers, noctambules etc.) annoncent la fermeture de ces sous-sols légendaires pour le 31 décembre prochain. Que l'on se rassure, la direction de l'Intercont. a démenti cette rumeur.

Toujours selon ces bruits fantaisistes, la disco ferait place à un restaurant dîner-spectacle, destiné à une clientèle plus âgée, plus calme et plus lucrative.

Bien naïf, l'Amra voudrait donc récupérer cette belle jeunesse, si on l'a privée de son terrain de chasse. La soirée déflagrante sera l'amorce d'une série de fêtes mensuelles. Et ce n'est pas fini: l'hôtel du même cercle prévoit à terme d'agrandir sa discothèque et de devenir le nouvel Intercont. du jeudi soir. Quant à l'Amra, il vont apprendre que toutes ces rumeurs de fermeture de l'Intercont. sont des rumeurs, ils vont faire une tête, à l'Amra... Et attendront.

Rumors ne désemplit pas.

FIGURE

La mémoire du siècle

Jamal Sâlim Nuwayhed — Oum Khalid pour les intimes — 82 ans, écrit depuis 1935 et est l'auteur de six romans sur la vie des Palestiniens au début de l'occupation sioniste. A ce jour, pas un seul n'a été publié, malgré leur qualité littéraire et documentaire. Elle peint également la vie des exilés de 1948, qu'elle met en scène dans ses fictions et pièces de théâtre. "J'ai été inspirée par la souffrance des gens, je souhaite que le public la partage avec moi. La célébration ne m'intéresse pas. Il y a eu depuis 1948, suivant l'exode palestinien, dans le Royaume Hachémite, importe en moyenne 3.250 tonnes par an de Cisjordanie, voire de Grèce et de Turquie quand la rive-ouest connaît une nouvelle année de production. Les importations d'huile d'olive sont passées de 677 tonnes en 1977 à 5.695 tonnes en 1987, soit une facture d'un demi-milliard de dinars cette dernière année.

Pressons, pressons

Mais les pressoirs jordaniens ne chôment pas pour autant, destinés d'une bonne partie de la récolte d'olives. Il y en a 77 dans le pays, dont une quarantaine dans la région d'Irbid, dont la capacité quotidienne atteint 748 tonnes.

Près de Salt, le propriétaire d'un de ces pressoirs reçoit depuis un mois des tonnes d'olives. Elles sont d'abord exposées au soleil pendant une semaine avant d'être lavées puis pressées. Ce pressoir, métallique et automatique, se distingue de ses frères aînés, manuels et en bois. Les olives entrent d'un côté et en bout de chaîne, l'huile dorée se déverse dans le pressoir, recueillie dans des boîtes de 20 kg. Une telle boîte coûte entre 22 et 25 dinars, selon la saison.

Et pas question pour les foyers jordaniens d'en faire l'économie. On l'utilise par exemple couramment en trempant du pain que l'on saupoudre ensuite de zaatar (thym). Interrogée sur la consommation de sa maisonnée, une ménagère affirme que sa famille de six membres en engloutit environ une boîte et demi par an. Soit 30 kg, soit 5 kg par tête... Et encore, cette consommation est très raisonnable, comparée à celle de nos grands-pères. Jadis, le petit déjeuner se composait de pain arabe coupé en morceaux, trempé dans de l'huile d'olive et arrosé de sucre... Bon appétit!

Suleiman Sweiss

Nous devons être soufflée comme un vulgaire sédu de paille. Tous aux abris, donc.

Bien naïf, l'Amra voudrait donc récupérer cette belle jeunesse, si on l'a privée de son terrain de chasse. La soirée déflagrante sera l'amorce d'une série de fêtes mensuelles. Et ce n'est pas fini: l'hôtel du même cercle prévoit à terme d'agrandir sa discothèque et de devenir le nouvel Intercont. du jeudi soir. Quant à l'Amra, il vont apprendre que toutes ces rumeurs de fermeture de l'Intercont. sont des rumeurs, ils vont faire une tête, à l'Amra... Et attendront.

Rumors ne désemplit pas.

Toujours selon ces bruits fantaisistes, la disco ferait place à un restaurant dîner-spectacle, destiné à une clientèle plus âgée, plus calme et plus lucrative.

Elle est pourtant une mémoire vivante du drame arabe contemporain. Née au Liban en 1906, elle a passé son enfance en Syrie, à l'époque du roi Fayçal. Puis l'occupant français a condamné son frère à mort après la bataille de Massalouah (1925). Elle est alors partie pour Amman.

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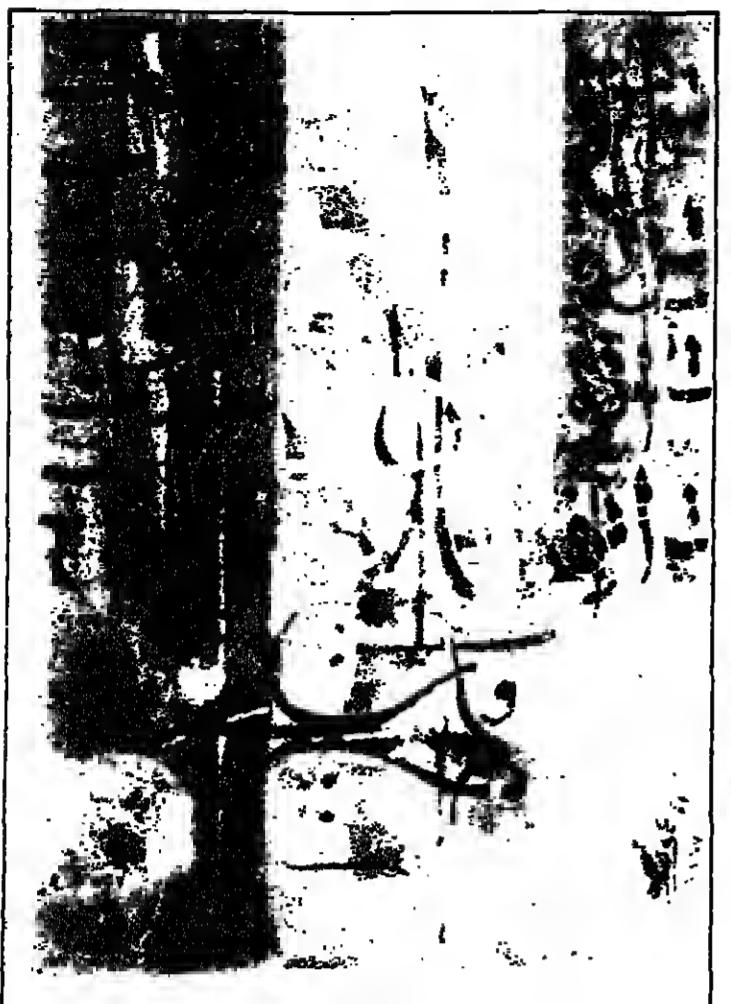
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A watercolour by Aziz Ammoura



One of the watercolours on display by Nabilah Hilmi

NEW ART EXHIBITION OPENS

Wealth of Jordan's art goes on display

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday inaugurated an exhibition of eight Jordanian artists in a new exhibition hall which forms part of the Cultural and Scientific Centre of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

The new gallery will hold almost continuously exhibitions of the work of both well known and rising Arab artists which will form a backdrop to the hall's other intellectual activities such as scientific seminars, poetry readings and literary discussions and in this way art and thought will be brought together.

The organisers of the centre hope to keep the standard of these art exhibitions consistently high, something which they have achieved with this their first art exhibition at the centre, which is the best collection of work from contemporary Jordanian artists to have been seen in the capital for quite some time.

The eight artists exhibiting are all familiar names, the recognised elite of the Jordanian art movement. They have however all produced new work for this show, much of it like that of Ahmad Nawash, fresh off the easel. These new works of Nawash, like those seen in his recent exhibition at the French Cultural Centre, are full of the strange, sad figures that have become over the years his hallmark. Mutating into other figures, guns and animals these odd unfathomable people, confused and isolated touch us, their doleful, inscrutable expressions speaking volumes for their blank acceptance of a fate over which they have no control and of the blurring and dulling of reality to which grinding daily struggle reduces us.

The same political overtones are felt in the work of Abdel Raouf Shamoun which over the years has increased in vigour and confidence. In contrast to Nawash's well worked light and subtle tones that suggest hope, Shamoun's deep, dark, rich colours are at once threatening, vital and challenging. Shamoun's figures wrapped like the bodies of the dead inhabit the base of the canvas, only the tilt of their heads conveying the idea that these shells of people are feeling the strong emotions of estrangement, grief and anger.

Behind them rise blocks of colour whose balance and sense of order and control contrasts with small areas in which whirr a thousand shapes and colours, indicating alternatively a struggling crowd, chaos and anarchy. More of Shamoun's interesting, mature and well painted works can be seen this week at the Jordan Artists Association's premises in Juhail Weibdeh where he is cur-

rently holding a one man show. Another artist whose work is rich in colour is Ayyad Al Nimer, who has produced some excellent new pieces for this show. The most successful of these works are two reclining female figures which combine the best of Nimer's earlier work with his more recent. Lying diagonally across the canvas in cubist like poses, these calm, eloquent figures seem to effortlessly soak up the energy from the highly abstracted backgrounds alive with thick sensual paint, bold in colour. A single vermilion line that stops short of the edge, hints at Nimer's continued desire to partition and divide. Another good work is his cityscape. Roughly and spontaneously painted, this large oil of Amman's rising houses that neatly fit one into another like pieces of a jigsaw breaks down at the edges to become totally abstract, providing another example of Nimer's almost unique ability to successfully combine the two very different approaches.

One of Jordan's leading abstract painters is Nabil Shahadeh who is represented at this exhibition by three very typical examples of his work. Precisely painted, where every line and dash of colour or absence of colour is there for a particular reason either technical or aesthetic, these abstracts still maintain their essential wildness and spontaneity. Selling well abroad, particularly in Europe. Shahadeh has transferred his base from Amman to Switzerland.

Another Jordanian artist who lives abroad is Samira Badran, also represented here by three of her powerful works. Wild with dark undercurrents of deep colour, Badran's sense of freedom from normal restrictions allows her to experiment with the shape of her paintings. Thus in one, the rectangle is broken open to allow the billowing clouds of the wounded shroud to escape, while the others adopt the shape of an arched window through whose painted mashrabieh intensely coloured light glows. Badran's work is uneasy and disturbing yet its ability to stimulate and excite makes you long to see more.

The only other female artist invited to participate in the exhibition is Nabilah Hilmi who has never shown her work in Amman before although she has exhibited her watercolours and collages quite extensively abroad, the most recent being a solo show at the Addison Ripley Gallery in Washington DC where she won much critical acclaim.

Light, delicate, sensitive and intellectual, Hilmi's work comes in like a breath of fresh air. So soft and transparent are they that they almost seem to float, yet these paintings are held down by

a keen sense of offbeat drama that seizes them to reality. Depicting for the most part seated figures in airy ephemeral interiors full of windows, doors and curtains, Hilmi captures the fleeting expression of an inward turned thought in coloured washes, offset, balanced and vitalised by pieces of paper torn from magazines.

In fact, so well integrated are the pieces of collage within the painting one hardly notices their presence yet they add a touch of gloss and colour that could not be achieved in any other way and in so doing Hilmi subtly breaks up her surface and brings it back together again without anybody ever noticing.

Azziz Ammoura has long been recognised for his talent in portraiture and it is thus very interesting to see his new work, beautifully executed watercolours that play with the curving shapes of arabic calligraphy. Using poetry and verses from the Koran Ammoura has built up the washes of colour around them layer upon layer to create a rich transparent base of delicate colours. The letters seem to float above this

background, their shadows dropping down behind them like echoes in a valley. The combined effect is to create a depth in his work rarely possible in this medium and one that gives his paintings substance and presence.

The exhibition is completed with the magical bowls, vases and plates of Mahmoud Taha. Taha's work never fails to please and these new ceramics are no exception. Generous in size, classical in shape, these pieces steal the scene with their understated, muted glazes that glow with subtle metallic purples, browns and blues. Across their smooth surfaces run repeated patterns either geometric in origin or composed of the lacing letters of arabic calligraphy. Taha's work, especially the spherical jars with their snug fitting lids and off centre handles seem to really occupy space, to have a positive presence.

The exhibition, which will run for three weeks, can be seen in the exhibition hall of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Centre which is located on the fifth floor of the Arah Jordan Investment building in Shmeisani.

Charlemagne, their first recorded mention dates back to 1164. The term *Printen* seems to have been coined toward the end of the 18th century for ornate gingerbread biscuits "printed" by finely carved wooden blocks.

Their modern history began 300 years ago when the Lambertz family set up as master-bakers in the city. In about 1820 Henry Lambertz hit on the idea of using sugar instead of expensive honey

certain countries.

The analgesic and febrifugal properties of willow leaves (*Salix Alba*) were already known at the time of Hippocrates of Kos, and that brilliant master of knowledge Pliny already recommended its use. From these distant times and until the 19th century, they were listed in pharmacopoeias in the form of infusions, plasters and other preparations.

In 1829, a French pharmacist, Leroux, identified the active ingredient contained in the bark and he called it "Salicin". In 1853, another Frenchman, Gérard, carried out the first acetylation of salicylic acid, but it was not until 1899 that the German Hoffmann, working for Bayer, succeeded in obtaining the pure and stable form of our modern aspirin. This therapeutic miracle was the stake and object of numerous economic and political dealings.

It has always remained an excellent analgesic and anti-inflammatory medicine and the world's annual production amounts to around 100,000 tonnes.

But every rose has its thorn.

For more than sixty years, its aggressive action on the fragile digestive mucous membranes has been noted. In 1954, a study showed that it was responsible for nearly a third of progressively developing gastro-duodenal ulcers with non-negligible surgical consequences (perforations, peritonitis and haemorrhages). At the same time, gynaecologists are concerned at the outbreak of uterine haemorrhages which are difficult to control at this time except by mutilating surgery.

Rheumatologists, who prescribe a lot of aspirin, had the first cortisones, but they turned out to be imperfect products with some side effects.

In the 60s, a return was made to aspirin which was described as "cortisone-like". Then towards the end of that decade modified cortisones appeared. These were quickly in competition with the group of "non-steroidal" anti-inflammatory drugs, which were highly popular until the last few years. But their perfect harmlessness is now highly contested and some of these drugs had to be taken off the market, and sometimes, even completely banned in

the creation of a blood clot. For forty years, laudatory statistics, alternating with other less enthusiastic ones, have also been regularly appearing. They show the frequency of spontaneous haemorrhagic accidents, or accidents which spontaneously become haemorrhage. Treatments of this kind need constant supervision.

More recently, the idea was raised of replacing these products by aspirin, whose anti-coagulant effects are now well-known. The discussion on the merits of aspirin is the latest.

But the widespread belief that it is a harmless all-purpose product is wrong — French features



Aspirin, on the production line

which is well-known by the name of atern-sclerosis.

The latter is characterised by

the formation of plaques which

reduce the width (or lumen) of

the vessels (resulting in under-

oxigenation), makes them rigid

and reduces the kind of inner

coating of the vessel. Moreover,

they form asperites. All the con-

ditions are present for clot to

form and these can leave the wall

of the vessels at any time, leading

to the greatest feared "stroke" in

the brain or coronary thrombosis.

For forty years, anti-coagulant

medicines have existed, and

taken daily in conjunction with

hygiene and dietary recom-

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reached a conclusion. "Double blind" studies using a placebo show that taking 30 centigrams of aspirin daily reduces the occurrence of a stroke and appears to cut down recurrence of heart-attacks by 50%, but scientists do not yet agree unanimity.

If a human organism is kept under the effect of a product which inhibits prostaglandins, for months or years, there is a risk of the immunity system being deeply upset. Also, with the rigour and extreme delicateness of the system controlling the perfect balance between acids and bases with a strict pH of 7.35, it might not be completely harmless to maintain a chronic state of acidity in the body.

Considered as an all-purpose medicine, aspirin is used for many ailments and quite often for want of anything better. It was recently proposed for treating foetal hypotrophy. There are indeed some pregnancies which are strictly normal but in which the child is underweight and undersize. Numerous forms of treatment have been suggested, without much success. Aspirin is the latest.

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All aboard the flying carpet

Arab Folktales

Edited and translated by Inea Bushnaq. Illustrated. 386 pp. New York: Pantheon Books. \$19.95. By Barbara Marlow

THE introduction to "Arab Folktales," an anthology of 130 stories collected and translated by Inea Bushnaq, begins with a comparison of the arts of embroidery and storytelling in the Arab World. The elaborate stitching that traditionally ornaments women's dresses throughout the eastern Mediterranean reveals both the unity and diversity of the region. The embroidered decoration of the gowns is widespread, but the patterns and designs reveal differences specific to given locales, from denser decorations on a dress one can read that the young girl wearing it had ample time for sewing while she sat watching a flock of sheep or cattle, women who work in the fields have less time for adorning their dresses. The patterns as well are important in indicating the provenance of the wearer of the gown. Embroidery from Bethlehem or Beit Jala is immediately distinguishable from the designs worked in Nablus or Al Bireh.

In the tales she presents here,

Arabic representing every part of the Arab World, Miss Bushnaq discerns a similar pattern of unity

in being the wife of women, for example, so important to the stories of

the "Thousand and One Nights,"

the peregrinations to animate tales told

today in Libya, Iraq or Egypt.

Si

jeha in Morocco, Goha in

all-py Egypt and Djuha in Syria

— used wings humour, cynicism and wis-

dom to the storytellers' varied

audiences. Sultans who disguise

themselves as commoners and

venture into the streets of their

palaces are no less characteristic of

Arab life and Damascus than they

underwore of Baghdad in the time of

Umar Al Rashid. In some cases,

however, the rulers' forays

among their populations are

motivated by philanthropy, in

helping them by a more authoritarian

purpose to spy out popular threats

to their dominion.

The systematic study of folk-

lore and folklore has been part of

Western scholarship at least since

the early 19th century and the

work of the German philologists

and fairy tale collectors the

Grimm brothers. In the 18th century Antoine Galland had trans-

lated the "Thousand and One

Nights" into French, and later

European travellers to the Orient

continued to be zealous in com-

iling further examples of the

marvellous tradition of story-tell-

ing. For example, E.W. Lane's

1836 study, "An Account of the

Manners and Customs of the

Modern Egyptians," included

three chapters on the "public

recitation of romances" as well as

many reports and anecdotes about

traditional tales and folk

practices. In the afterword to

"Arab Folktales," Miss Bushnaq

acknowledges the contribution of

still other scholars who have col-

lected, edited and translated

Arab stories. She points out,

however, the increased impor-

tance attached in the Arab World

itself in recent decades to the

preservation of its cultural legacy

and heritage.

Such concern, seen in the work

of ministries of culture, certainly,

but also in the efforts of indi-

vidual researchers, is both con-

servationist and creative, and it

represents a change since the

days of Ahmad Amin in Egypt.

In the late 1930's Amin began

composing in Arabic and Diction-

ary of Egyptian Customs, Traditions and Expressions. Work on

the project had to be delayed,

according to the dictionary, until

he had finished his term as dean

of the faculty of the arts at the

University of Cairo. At the time

Amin was advised that such work

was "beneath the dignity of a

dean." The dictionary was finally

published in Egypt in 1953, one

year after the Egyptian revolution

and the year before Ahmad

Amin died. Preservation of the

cultural heritage can be seen here

as part of the task of national

reconstruction.

Inea Bushnaq has in turn done

more than select these popular

tales from the Arab World. A

translator from the Arabic and

French, she tells us she knows

many of these stories intimately

from her own childhood in rural

Palestine. Her fluent and graceful

translations, together with her

introductions to the sections of

the anthology, make the English-

speaking reader aware of the

social customs and practices that

inform the stories' settings and

occasion their telling, as well as

the action, predicaments and re-

solutions found in them.

The anthology, which is di-

vided into seven sections, opens

with "Tales Told in Houses Made

of Hair," stories of Bedouin life

and the male vigour and collec-

tive generosity it enjoins. The

emphasis is on the struggle

against separation and division,



One of the sketches accompanying Bushnaq's tales

Cat and mouse

A LONG time ago the king of the cats went on the pilgrimage to Mecca. When he returned, the king of the mice felt obliged to pay him the traditional visit of congratulations on his safe return as a Hajji, or pilgrim. He said to his subjects the mice, "Etiquette demands that we go to his house and welcome him back formally." The mice were not convinced. "The cat is our enemy; how can we go near him in safety?" The king explained, "Now that he has been to Mecca and become a Hajji, he is no longer free to what was permitted before. Nowadays he remains at prayer from dawn till sunset, and the prayer beads never leave his hands." The mice were not persuaded. "You call on him and see," they said. "We shall wait here for you."

So the king of the mice set out. He poked his head out of his hole and looked around. There sat the king of the cats, the white cap of a pilgrim on his head. He was praising God, murmurings prayers, and every now and then splitting over his shoulder, first to his left and then to his right, in case the devil was lurking behind to distract him from his devotions.

But no sooner had the king of the cats caught sight of the king of the mice peeping out of his hole than he dropped his rosary and sprang! And but for God the Preserver, he would have bitten the mouse's tail right off.

The king of the mice jumped back into his hole and rejoined his subjects. "How is the king of the cats after his pilgrimage?" they asked. "Let's hope he has changed for the better." "Never mind the pilgrimage," said the king of the mice. "He may pray like a Hajji, but he still pounces like a cat."

— A Syrian fable from "Arab Folktales".

the writings of modern Arab women too, like the Egyptian Alifa Rifaat or Hanan Al Shaykh from Lebanon, the reader finds new, critical versions of the tales traditionally told by and about women that are collected in Miss Bushnaq's anthology.

Thus the importance of her book is not only in the pleasure

and delight it gives but in the way it participates in the retrieval of a cultural heritage by making that culture available to today's English-language reader. Like the embroidery on Arab women's dresses, "Arab Folktales" is no less universal for being rooted in a specific culture — The New York Times Book Review.

Turkey's healing herbs

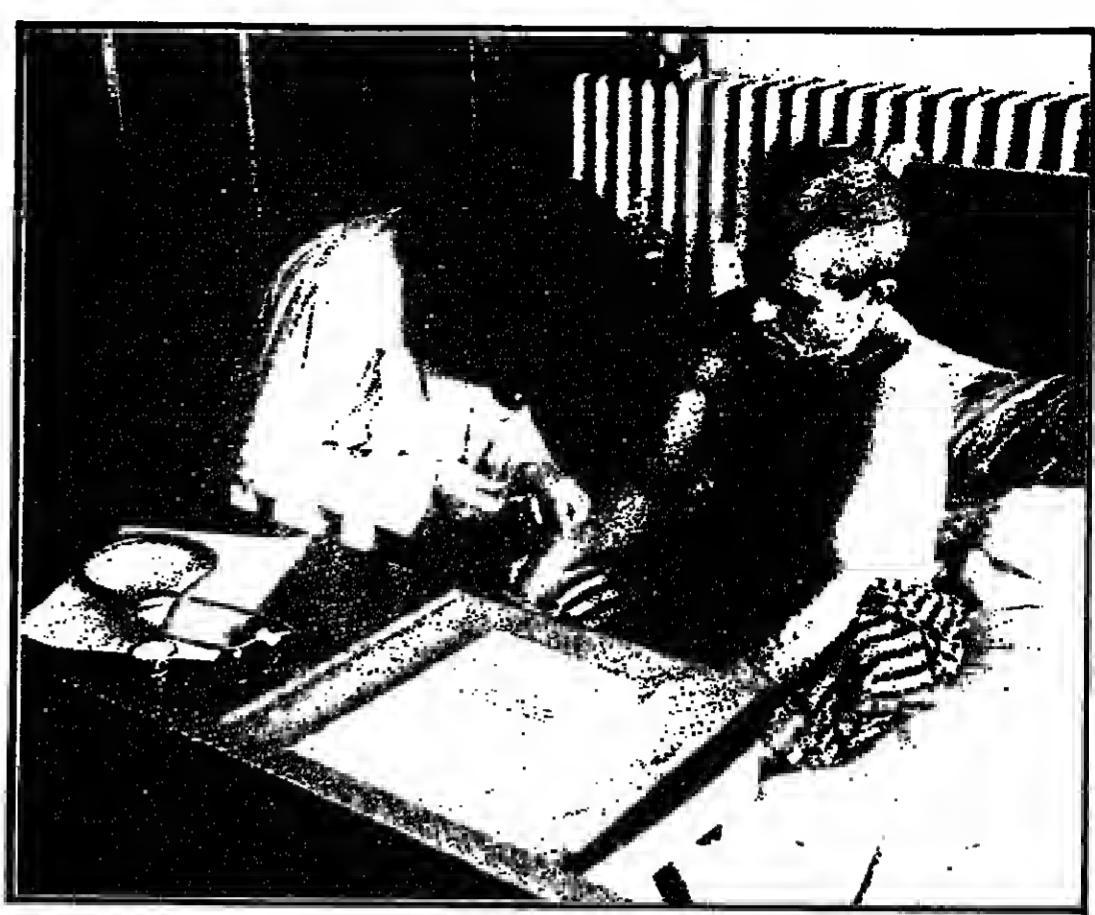
AS Director of the Medical Plants Research Centre at Turkey's University of Anatolia, Dr. Husnu Baser is spearheading a drive to turn the country's immense variety of flora into medicines and essential oils.

"The price of medicine in Turkey is rocketing every day," Dr. Baser confirms. The country currently imports 75% of its raw materials for pharmaceuticals. Greater use of domestic medicinal and aromatic plants could reduce imports to 40% or less, resulting in substantial foreign exchange savings.

With some 10,000 plant species, Turkey has a long history of herbal medicines, going back as far as the ancient Hittites, who placed great store by herbal remedies to cure their ailments. From that time up until the present day, herbalists have practised their profession of healing the sick with formulations often handed down from father to son.

These often provided the only life-saving drugs available to a large part of the population, the basis for their composition and production has frequently been less than scientific or hygienic.

"In Turkey there are about 120 pharmaceutical companies," says Dr. Baser. "Only a few of them manufacture drugs based on medicinal plants. Until a few years ago, the Ministry of Health would instruct these companies to remove plant drugs from their formulations."



Herbal medicines can save lives and foreign exchange.

Programme (UNDP). UNIDO

brought in the kind of expertise, equipment and training to give the Centre the leading edge in medicinal plant research in Turkey. By 1986 the pilot plant and quality-control laboratory were on stream, together with an information service to help local pharmaceutical firms. UNIDO/UNDP inputs, says Dr. Baser, have been crucial to the Centre's

development.

"When the project began we had nothing — not even a building. Although the Centre will just be celebrating its second birthday this autumn, even within this short span of time it has become productive. Its success has depended largely on the selection of good personnel, fielding of competent experts and acquisition of the right equipment."

Success has become so much its hallmark that training is now being offered to students from other developing countries as well as from Turkey. Building on the Centre's rapid advances, UNIDO/UNDP assistance will be extended into a second phase to isolate and purify herbal extracts and essential oils. — Middle East.

Why Islam prohibits pork

ALLAH describes the Prophet Mohammad in the Koran as one who "makes lawful for them (i.e. his followers) all things that are good and forbids them all that is evil." Therefore, anything which is clearly forbidden in Islam must be evil. Otherwise, it would not have been forbidden to us.

This is a general statement which applies universally. It is sufficient for us to know that pork is clearly forbidden to conclude that it is evil. When we examine religious teachings we find that certain prohibitions are clearly related to their causes. We are told that this particular thing is forbidden because it results in so and so. In such cases, when we are certain that the effect no longer applies, then the prohibition is relaxed. In other cases,

there is no cause stated for the prohibition. This means that the prohibition will continue for all time. In the case of pork, no cause has been specified. Therefore, pork will remain evil and forbidden for all time to come.

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It is perfectly in order for Muslims to try to determine the cause of prohibition of any matter. When they come out with an answer, they must not make their conclusion final, in the sense that they will say that the prohibition

is only linked to this particular aspect. If they do, they run the risk of superimposing their conclusions on Allah's legislation. This is not allowed to anyone.

In the case of pork, people have suggested a variety of causes for its prohibition. Any one or all of these reasons may be relevant and correct. However, we cannot say that only for these reasons pork has been forbidden. It me

say that pork is forbidden because it is evil and will remain so for all time.

According to Islam, it is forbidden to produce or sell or breed what is of no benefit. What is forbidden is without benefit whatsoever. It is forbidden to sell or breed or produce intoxicants. The same prohibition applies to pigs and pork — Arab News.

SEMAINE FRANCAISE

From 27th November to 1st December the Amman Marriott Hotel presents French Week. For any food or wine connoisseur it's a culinary delight!

Both our prestigious restaurants, Al Mansaf and Al Walima will have special menus from Breakfast to Dinner. All of course complemented by Beaujolais Nouveau 1988. There's also a chance to win air tickets to Paris on Air France with 4 nights at the Marriott Prince de Galles. Also, visit our exhibition of French products in the Hotel.

From Foie Gras to Fillet de Boeuf, all specially flown in fresh from France and prepared by Chef Dominique from Paris.

French Week at the Marriott, for the discerning palate.

Marriott People Know How.

AIR FRANCE

AMMAN
Marriott
HOTEL

ماريوت
عمان

OPEC appears unable to clinch oil output deal

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers gave themselves four more hours Wednesday to thrash out a deal to cut oil production and resolve a dispute between Iran and Iraq which has divided the 13-nation group.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said a formal round of talks at OPEC's Vienna headquarters had been pushed back until 7 p.m. (1800 GMT) from 3 p.m. (1400 GMT), the second time the session has been postponed since it was first planned Monday.

He gave no reason for the delay as the peace of behind-the-scenes bargaining picked up with a flurry of talks between OPEC mediators and the Iranian and Iraqi delegations.

Oil analysts said the ministers appeared to be back at square one Wednesday after a week of talks had still not reconciled rival quota demands by Iran and Iraq which have blocked a deal to rein in output and prop up world prices.

Libyan Oil Minister Fawzi Shaksbouki, asked by reporters if there was any progress in the dispute, said after meeting the Iranian delegation: "We still have to work harder on that."

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) must decide whether to press on with talks in Vienna, now in their seventh day, or break off and resume at a later date.

"The fact the ministers are still here underlines the obvious point — they are desperate for some agreement even if it doesn't resolve all the outstanding problems," said Nick Antill, oil analyst from London-based brokers County Natwest.

Optimism which swept through the conference 24 hours earlier had evaporated by Wednesday afternoon.

But few analysts were ready to rule out an agreement altogether, knowing that OPEC has often pulled back from the brink during its 28-year-old history.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Agazadeh made clear in public Tuesday that he was not willing to give way on the key issue of granting Iraq production parity.

Irqi Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi has also given

no sign he is ready to drop his demand to pump the same amount of oil. Tehran's refusal to grant this has led Baghdad to boycott OPEC production sharing deals since late 1986.

The apparent deadlock was in sharp contrast to a rising mood of optimism Tuesday which sent petroleum prices rocketing only to fall back again after Agazadeh emerged from talks to tell newsmen: "I will never concede to the amount."

In Europe Wednesday, the widely traded North Sea Brent oil for January delivery firmed briefly then shed 15 cents to \$13.05 a barrel as traders awaited fresh news from OPEC.

The group's key Middle East crude Duhail slipped 20 cents to indicated quotes of \$10.95.

As the deadline for OPEC's formal meeting approached, Chalabi was having at a late lunch with Saudi Arabia's Nazer and ministers from three of the main mediating nations, Algeria, Indonesia and Nigeria.

The main deal on the table appears to be little changed from that suggested by major Gulf oil producers in October.

It involves reintegrating Iraq into an output sharing accord at the same quota level as Iran, possibly 2.65 million barrels per day. But that would appear to be unacceptable to Agazadeh.

Another idea, to set Iraq a slightly lower quota and top it up with oil produced in the so-called "Neutral Zone" between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, seems equally unacceptable to Chalabi.

One senior delegate, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters: "Key negotiators are trying to convince Iran that the quota formula being proposed is a victory for them rather than a loss of face."

Even if mediators can break the deadlock, thorny problems such as how crude oil is defined could still hold up a comprehensive agreement to stem the torrent of OPEC oil into already glutted world markets.

White House sees 3.5% growth in '89

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration, bullish on the end of the American economy, predicted Tuesday that 1989 would be a year of stronger growth, lower unemployment, falling inflation and declining interest rates.

In contrast to warnings by many experts of hard times ahead unless the federal budget deficit is reduced, White House chief economist Beryl Sprinkel said the economy would expand 3.5 per cent next year and keep growing at a rate of more than three per cent a year in the first half of the next decade.

"I am pleased to report in the final Reagan administration forecast that the longest peacetime expansion is expected to continue in 1989 and beyond," Sprinkel, chairman of Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters.

Announcing the devaluation of the inti, Economy Minister Abel Salinas also said the government would eliminate subsidies for basic food products in stages over the next six months because it lacks the money to finance them.

Peru slashes inti by 50%, imposes severe measures

LIMA (AP) — In an attempt to deal with a shrinking economy and runaway inflation, the government has devalued Peru's currency by 50 per cent and imposed other severe austerity measures including food price increases.

Jordan, Japan pursue talks on loan allocations

By Ghadeer Taher and P.V. Vivekanand Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The governments of Jordan and Japan are holding consultations over allocations of part of a major Japanese loan to the Kingdom and have identified projects in education and building of schools as possible areas where the financing could be utilised.

The two sides agreed on allocating \$130 million of the \$300 million loan following the visit to Jordan of the Japanese foreign minister earlier this year and the ongoing discussions focus on the remainder of the amount.

"We are in the process of talking with Jordan as to the additional projects to be financed out of the remainder of the loan," said the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Makoto Watanabe.

"At this stage, I can only say that there are areas related to educational reforms and improvement of educational facilities," Watanabe told the Jordan Times in an interview this week.

"Of course there are other projects that may come up,"

he added.

The ambassador said the current economic situation in Jordan and the recently announced economic measures did not have any bearing on the ongoing discussions between the two governments.

"The recent economic measures are of course meant to — in a popular phrase — tighten the belt of the Jordanian economy and I am sure they must be appropriate and good measures for the sake of Jordan," he said. "From our point of view, the situation hasn't changed, and we will continue to extend our cooperation as much as we can."

Cooperation boosted

The ambassador said the visit to Japan by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had helped increase bilateral cooperation. "There are various things that are happening or which are going to happen," he said without elaboration.

But he did refer to this week's visit to Jordan by a commercial delegation representing C. Itoh and Company, one of the six largest firms in

Japan, and said it was one of the results of a joint Jordanian-Japanese economic seminar held in Japan during the Crown Prince's visit.

"As far as the government-to-government cooperation is concerned, we have already started implementing the \$300 million loan," Watanabe pointed out. "We have certain other projects which came up at the time of His Royal Highness' visit to Japan in the field of technical cooperation."

"As to the private sector cooperation, the seminar was the first step. Now, the Japanese business sector knows about the actual situation in Jordan and there are movements to follow up on that. The visit of the group from C. Itoh and Company is one of the major follow-up steps which are being taken by the Japanese business sector. Needless to say, private sector cooperation takes time. We cannot expect overnight results... but the accumulated power of these kinds of visits, we believe, will produce results for both Jordan and Japan," he said.

Joint projects

During their talks with

Jordanian officials, the C. Itoh representatives expressed willingness to set up joint industrial projects in various parts of Jordan.

Agreement was reached on setting up a paper processing plant in Jordan, the head of the team was quoted as saying by Reuters.

In another field of Japanese-Jordanian cooperation, the Japan National Oil Company and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) this week signed an agreement under which the Japanese firm will undertake an oil-prospecting programme in the Kingdom.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, Ambassador Watanabe emphasised the importance Japan attaches to Jordan in terms of the Kingdom's role in security and stability of the region and its development.

"Jordan has pursued realistic policies and we highly appreciate them," he said.

The ambassador said that any increase in Japan's import of Jordanian phosphates and other fertiliser products would depend on "the situation in the market, prices, demand in

improvement projects near the Jordanian-Iraqi border and in the Jerash-Irbid, Irbid-north Shuneh and Salt-Ardha areas. These projects involve a total of \$13.24 billion yen.

Both loans carry 2.9 per cent interest and mature in 36 years, including a grace period of 13 years.

The ambassador was obviously referring to the possibility that Japanese giants like C. Itoh and Company and others which operate worldwide trading offices could help expand outlets for Jordanian exports.

Yukihiko Aoki, first-secretary at the Japanese Embassy, confirmed that possibilities of such arrangements were part of the discussions that the C. Itoh team held with senior Jordanian officials this week.

Aoki also said that the two governments had already completed the "exchange of notes" process related to the projects covered by allocated \$130 million of the \$300 million loan.

The notes covered two projects: the first is an irrigation improvement programme in the northern Ghor region and the amount involved is 4,080 billion Japanese yen and the second is a package of road

EIU expects decline in metal prices in '89

LONDON (R) — Metal prices are likely to fall next year from high 1988 levels as markets correct recent deficits to achieve a better balance between supply and demand, an independent British survey said Wednesday.

But prices will not collapse.

Another idea, to set Iraq a

slightly lower quota and top it up with oil produced in the so-called "Neutral Zone" between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, seems equally unacceptable to Chalabi.

One senior delegate, who

asked not to be identified, told

Reuters: "Key negotiators are

trying to convince Iran that the

quota formula being proposed

is a victory for them rather than a loss of face."

Even if mediators can break the deadlock, thorny problems such as how crude oil is defined could still hold up a comprehensive agreement to stem the torrent of OPEC oil into already glutted world markets.

Copper and aluminium supplies are expected to be in surplus with prices for both metals falling about \$0.90 a pound from a forecast \$1988 \$1.10 for copper and \$1.20 for aluminium.

Zinc prices are expected to fall

to 48 cents a pound from 52 cents

as supplies move into surplus with new production coming on stream in India, Canada, Australia and Brazil and lower demand from the construction and automobile industries.

The changes will take place as industrial output growth and the price is seen holding steady at around 30 cents a pound.

Tin prices could rise to \$3.59 a pound from \$3.33 in 1988 as demand outstrip supplies.

Turkey plans to merge four state-run banks

ANKARA (R) — Turkey plans to merge four state-run banks in an effort to increase profitability, a top government official has said.

The banks are Denizcilik

Bankasi, Turizm Bankasi, Etibank, and Sumerbank.

"We will merge these four banks so they will start to be much more profitable," the official said. State-run banks have been under political pressure for the past 20 years.

"This is a major part of a structural change launched when the government came to office (in 1983)," the official, who declined to be named, told Reuters. He did not give a time-scale for the merger.

He said state-run banks were not operating profitably because of bad loans caused by political pressures.

"These banks should be kept free from political influence. They have to function according to principles of banking," conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said in an interview recently.

A majority of state banks affiliated with ministries are more susceptible to political influences when they are not linked directly to the prime ministry," he was quoted as saying.

In a move leading to the merger, Denizcilik Bankasi, linked to the transport ministry, and tourism ministry-linked Turizm Bankasi, were placed under prime ministry control last week.

Denizcilik and Sumerbank are among eight state-run commercial banks operating in Turkey. Turizm Bankasi is one of four investment banks.

Bankers say most state-run banks are still carrying bad loans when many private and foreign banks are aggressively increasing profits under Ozal's economic liberalisation.

Ozal, who applied last year for full membership of the European Community, wants to bring financial institutions more in line with those in Western Europe.

Of the 59 banks operating in Turkey, 12 are state-run and 18 are foreign.

The first reduction will be implemented immediately and will double the prices of some food staples, Salinas said in a nationwide television address Tuesday night.

Severe economic measures implemented by the government in early September, including an 86

per cent currency devaluation, did not succeed in reducing the country's huge deficit, said Salinas.

Independent economists estimate the deficit has since increased from 16 per cent to 18 per cent of the gross national product. Inflation is expected to reach an annual 1,500 per cent this year.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Soviets retain lead in chess

SALONIKA (R) — Defending champions the Soviet Union retained their lead by defeating the United States in the ninth round of the Chess Olympiad Tuesday. World Champion Gary Kasparov beat American Yasser Seirawan to increase his personal tally to 6.5 points from seven games. Joel Benjamin drew with the black pieces against Soviet Artur Yusupov and American Nick Deirmian adjourned his game against Alexander Beliavsky.

Alen's dream turns to nightmare

ENGLAND (R) — Markku Alen's dream of finally winning the British RAC rally at his 15th attempt turned into a nightmare in severe weather through the forests of Northern England Tuesday. Alen built his lead up to 5½ minutes early in the day but by Tuesday night after gearbox problems and severe weather he was back in third place 15 seconds behind the new joint leaders, fellow-Finns Juha Kankkunen and Hannu Mikkola. Alen, 37, seemed intent on making the race a one-man procession until his Lancia Delta, flawless until then, developed gearbox troubles and then spun off in the rugged Kielder forest near the England-Scotland border.

Racing paper reportedly banned

LONDON (AP) — The Sporting Life Horse racing newspaper has been banned from sale in Dubai, its publishers said Tuesday. Sources in the Emirate said, however, the ban lasted only one day. The reported ban followed a three-page story published Nov. 14 about the Maktoum family of thoroughbred racehorse owners. The story was headlined: "The Maktoums — the men who wish to dominate British racing" and criticised the extent to which Sheikh Mohammed and his three brothers are dominating thoroughbred racing in Europe.

Tyson-Bruno fight is off again

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Tyson's Jan. 14 heavyweight title defence against Frank Bruno is off again, this time amid accusations and threats of lawsuits, according to published reports. Both the New York Times and the New York Daily News, in Wednesday's editions, said the fight was postponed late Tuesday night when the Las Vegas Hilton, site of the scheduled match, backed out. "The fight is off," said Bill Cayton, Tyson's manager, after learning from John Giovenco, of the Nevada Hilton Corporation, that the hotel was "pulling the plug on the Jan. 14 date." Giovenco acted after told by Tyson's attorney, Howard Weitzman, that Cayton's offer of a deal with boxing promoter Don King was "unacceptable" and there was "no way to keep it alive."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

PICK THE BONES CLEAN

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH		5	clubs	West took the right position when he elected to double rather than bid on.
♦	3	7	4	Since East-West would have scored 620 in four hearts, for a good
♥	Q	6		score they had to set five clubs doubled, four tricks to earn 800 points under the new scoring table; only down three would have netted 500 for a poor score. Three spades and two hearts were the obvious defensive tricks. Where could another trick be developed?
♦	K	10	9	East-West masterfully found the answer: in the trump suit! West started matters off with three winning spades, on the last of which East signalled with the nine of hearts. West then shifted to a low heart, and East's jack won. A heart continuation to West's ace netted the defenders their fifth trick.
♦	7	6		Since declarer had to have the ace of diamonds for his opening bid, there were no more tricks to be won in the side suits. Now West landed the telling blow by reverting to spades. East ruffed with the ten of spades and the defenders had prevailed. South could overruff, but in doing so he set up a trump trick for West.
WEST		6	EAST	The technical name for this tactic is borrowed from the "noble art of self-defense." It is called an "uppercut."
♦	A	K	9	One of the fascinations of duplicate bridge for the columnist is that it is a fertile source of material. Hands that merit little attention in rubber bridge can be fascinating battles in a pair competition. Here is an example.
♦	5	2	6	North-South were using an artificial one club forcing system. So South's bid was the equivalent of a one club opening in standard methods. When East-West reached four hearts, a contract that would have made, South decided to sacrifice in
♦	4	5	2	Opening lead: King of ♦.
♦	3	4	2	One of the fascinations of duplicate bridge for the columnist is that it is a fertile source of material. Hands that merit little attention in rubber bridge can be fascinating battles in a pair competition. Here is an example.
♦	2	3	1	North-South were using an artificial one club forcing system. So South's bid was the equivalent of a one club opening in standard methods. When East-West reached four hearts, a contract that would have made, South decided to sacrifice in
♦	1	2	0	Opening lead: King of ♦.
♦	0	1	0	One of the fascinations of duplicate bridge for the columnist is that it is a fertile source of material. Hands that merit little attention in rubber bridge can be fascinating battles in a pair competition. Here is an example.
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3 killed, 126 hurt in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (AP) — Three soldiers were killed and 126 people were injured in Azerbaijan as riots over a territorial dispute swept through two southern Soviet cities, an Azerbaijan official said Wednesday.

Musa Mamedov, chief of the information department of the Azerbaijan foreign ministry, said violence erupted in the Azerbaijan cities of Nakhichevan and Kirovabad when interior ministry troops arrived Tuesday.

"Three soldiers were killed, perhaps by stones, perhaps by sticks," Mamedov told AP by telephone from Azerbaijan's capital, Baku. "A total of 126 people in the two cities were injured."

He said state of emergency was proclaimed in the two cities.

The Caucasus region has been tense since February because of the territorial dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia over

Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly Armenian region of Azerbaijan whose legislature has demanded unification with Armenia.

Mamedov said it could not be determined immediately whether ethnic Armenians who live in Nakhichevan and Kirovabad were among those injured.

"Many Armenians live in Kirovabad, so it's possibly they were among the victims," he said.

In February, anti-Armenian riots shook another Azerbaijan city, Sumgait, and Soviet officials said 32 people, including 26 Armenians, were killed. Armenians claim the death toll was much higher.

Tens of thousands of Arme-

nians gathered in Yerevan, their capital, Tuesday night and voted to form "self-defence squads" as initial news of the unrest in Azerbaijan became known in the city.

In Baku, thousands of Azerbaijanis were reported gathered in the main square Wednesday as anti-Armenian protests there entered a fifth day. A reporter with official Azerbaijan television estimated the number of protesters at 800,000, almost half of Baku's total population of 1.7 million.

An editor for the official Azerbaijan news agency Azerinform, who identified himself only as Perets, said 100,000 people were in Lenin Square Wednesday afternoon. He said the numbers were expected to swell to more than one million after work let out later in the day.

The giant protests on Lenin Square were sparked by news from Nagorno-Karabakh that

Armenians were trying to increase the Armenian population of the Shusha district.

Settlers were taken to the area a week ago in official trucks and began building barracks with materials supplied by the Armenian government, according to an Azerbaijan correspondent who spoke by telephone on condition of not being identified.

Official Baku radio, monitored in London, reported that "irregular" residents of the Azerbaijan capital were holding stop rallies and demanding the imposition of "law and order" and an end to the building project in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Baku radio said the Azerbaijani council of ministers ordered a halt to the "illegal construction" by Armenia of an aluminum plant at Topkhana near Shusha, which also included a cooperative boarding house for

workers.

It said the site was a national historical monument, where a fortress stands in the spot Azerbaijanis once resisted Iranian invaders.



Brian Mulroney holds a balloon off the stage during his hometown victory celebration in Baie Comeau, Quebec Tuesday.

Mulroney reaches out to opponents

OTTAWA (AP) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney began the difficult task of trying to heal the country's wounds following the government's divisive election campaign over closer trade ties with the United States.

Mulroney, who won a strong 22-seat majority in the House of Commons in Monday's vote, said he will recall parliament by mid-December to give speedy passage to the trade deal.

"Somebody said 'let the people decide,' and they have decided," Mulroney said referring to liberal leader John Turner's anti-free-trade slogan.

We have a mandate to proceed," Mulroney said.

Mulroney said he will keep his pre-election cabinet intact while he arranges the recall of parliament. He said he will replace the six cabinet ministers who went down to defeat in the election after plans for the free trade agreement have been settled.

Mulroney, magnanimous in his strong victory, pledged to reach out to his opponents who bitterly opposed the sweeping trade pact and its creation of a North American free trade zone.

Mulroney, whose reelection was generally welcomed by business and political leaders, will also be working to set up an early meeting with President-elect George Bush, possibly before the Jan. 20 inauguration.

President Reagan, who developed close ties with Mulroney during his second term, warmly congratulated Mulroney in his victory and said he looked forward to the ratification of the trade deal.

COLUMN

Dorchester fined for cockroaches

LONDON (R) — One of Britain's top hotels, the Dorchester, was fined £6,500 (\$11,700) Tuesday after cockroaches were found under a kitchen freezer. A magistrate's court was told the 280-bedroom hotel, owned by the Sultan of Brunei, admitted breaches of food and hygiene regulations in its main kitchen. Public health inspectors found dust on wall and light fittings and floor tiles so badly cracked and chipped that they could not be cleaned. Paul Hamlin, defence lawyer for the hotel in London's fashionable Park Lane, said £93,000 (\$167,000) had been spent repairing the kitchen since the inspection in March. The hotel would close Dec. 23 for a 15-month renovation, imposing the fines. Magistrate Geoffrey Wilkes said he took into account the fact that the Dorchester had no previous convictions and that it had an international reputation.

Decathlon champs honour Johnson

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — America's great decimal champions of the past were gathered to honour Rafer Johnson, the 1960 Olympic decathlon gold medalist, for his work with the mentally disabled in the California Special Olympics. Johnson, who helped launch the California organisation in 1968 and now serves as its president, received the Spirit of Friendship Award at a gala affair that raised more than \$500,000. On hand to pay tribute to Johnson were Bob Mathias, gold medalist in the 1948 and 1952 games; Milt Campbell, who beat Johnson for the gold in 1956; Bill Toomey, who won the decathlon in Mexico City in 1968; and Bruce Jenner, gold medalist at the 1976 games in Montreal.

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Coming to America suit unfounded

LOS ANGELES (R) — The manager of film star Eddie Murphy said Tuesday a lawsuit filed by columnist Art Buchwald was just one of several unfounded attempts to get credit for the story of the comedian's hit movie "Coming to America." "Everybody's saying, 'I did the story,'" Robert Wachs said, referring to lawsuits surrounding the tale of an African prince who comes to America in search of love. The film grossed more than \$127 million at the box office last summer. "Eddie Murphy wrote it and that's the truth," Wachs told Reuters. Buchwald, in a \$5 million suit filed in Los Angeles Monday, alleged the distributor of "Coming to America," Paramount Pictures Corporation, misappropriated a story he wrote as the basis for the film. He said his story described a visit to the United States by an extremely rich, handsome, spoiled African king. Paramount commissioned two treatments of the story, he said, but told him in 1985 they were dropping the project.

Harriers take on the unpronounceables

LONDON (AP) — Fans of the Kidderminster Harriers soccer team will have the chance to win a bottle of bubbly when their team plays in the Welsh Cup Saturday. All they have to do is pronounce the name of the opposition — Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch. Kidderminster, which plays in the Welsh cup despite being located in England, hosts the semi-pro team which hails from a small town on the island of Anglesey in northwest Wales. Drunken fans who go for the prize will be wasting their breath, however. The game is sponsored by the charity, Alcohol Concern, and the prize will be alcohol-free champagne. Tony Humphries, public affairs director of Alcohol Concern said the sponsorship and prize offer is a light-hearted bid to promote safe drinking. "After all," he said, "Only those who drink sensibly stand a chance of getting their tongues around the name."

Soccer pools pay up in Italy

ROME (R) — The number 13 has proved lucky for three mystery punters who will share a record prize of 13 billion lire (\$10 million) on the Italian soccer pools. Organisers of the weekly lottery said only three coupons registered the maximum 13 points in Sunday's competition. Pools winners remain anonymous in Italy but the owner of a bar in Cagliari, Sardinia, where one of the winning coupons was sold for the price of a cup of coffee, and the tipster may have been a street peddler from Senegal.

Pretoria court rejects 'Sharpeville six' appeal

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The country's highest court Wednesday rejected an application to reopen the trial of the "Sharpeville six," a group of blacks whose death sentences have provoked worldwide protests.

Defence lawyers said the only formal avenue left for saving the six was to petition President P.W. Botha for clemency. Botha turned down a clemency request previously, but has said he would reconsider the matter "as a human being" once the judicial process was completed. Prakash Dhar, lawyer for the six defendants, said the deci-

sion by the appeal court in Bloemfontein was "a bit disappointing" but not unexpected. He said a clemency petition probably would be submitted to Botha within a few weeks.

The six, five men and a woman, were convicted of murder in connection with the September 1984 mob killing of a black town councillor in Sharpeville, a township south of Johannesburg.

No evidence was presented that the six contributed physically to the death of the councillor, Kuzwayo Dlamini. Instead, they were convicted under the

doctrine of common purpose, which held them responsible because they allegedly were active participants in the mob that killed Dlamini in riots sparked by a rent increase.

Anti-apartheid groups in South Africa, international human rights organisations and numerous foreign governments have urged Botha to grant clemency.

Defence lawyers had asked that the trial be reopened to hear evidence from a state witness who later said police coerced him into giving false testimony against two defen-

dants.

In a unanimous ruling, a five-judge panel of the appeal court rejected the application. The panel said the trial judge, Willem Human, acted properly and at no time was presented with an affidavit by the witness asserting that he had given false

evidence.

The "Sharpeville six" are Francis Mokgosi, 31; Reid Mokoena, 24; Oupa Moses Dlamini, 32; Duma Joshua Khumalo, 28; Reginald Seata, 32, and Theresia Ramashamalo, 27.

The riots in Sharpeville and neighbouring townships in September 1984 marked the start of more than two years of nationwide black unrest.

Chinese officials told 'no gifts' once again

PEKING (R) — China Wednesday formally banned government officials from giving or accepting presents, a nationwide practice pursued for centuries which previous efforts have failed to stop.

Official newspapers published on their front pages an order from the State Council cabinet which said government functionaries could be dismissed if they persisted.

But the Economic Daily admitted in an editorial that previous attempts to eradicate lavish gift-giving with public funds at banquets and conferences had failed and matters were getting worse as

corruption became the norm. The new order was not just "wind whistling in the ear," but had to be obeyed, the newspaper said.

One Western businessman said gift-giving had got so out of hand that foreign business guests to banquets given by state-run companies were sometimes "invited to bring a small gift" — in his case 50 plastic briefcases.

Even the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily cast doubt on whether the government could make people obey its orders.

It recounted how police, judges

and court investigators in the northeast city Dandong defied orders cutting state spending and illegally imported 159 cars from Japan.

"Power is above the law," it said in a comment on the case. "A huge of power to hide illegal activities is the root cause of this scandal."

The officials even resorted to dismantling finished cars, importing them as "spare parts," then reassembling them.

Some officials were quoted as saying that since their job was to investigate and watch over other people, no-one would investigate

them. "We break the law a little — it doesn't matter," one said.

This case is just the tip of the iceberg, according to figures published this week in the official Statistical News.

Despite what were supposed to be tight curbs on purchases of foreign consumer goods, imports of air conditioners and cigarettes — important status symbols in China — have risen 130 and 45 per cent this year.

A common saying in China sums up what local officials think of orders from Peking: "The centre has a policy, localities have a counter-measure."

At first we thought it was a minor snafu backfiring. Then we saw the terrorists. People were falling down, and we ran," said Rajesh Kumar, 23, who runs a shop in Kaitai's main bazaar.

An electrical failure had blacked out the town shortly before the attackers arrived Tuesday evening. Cause of the failure was not immediately known.

Kaitai is in Hainan province, 20 kilometres south of the border of Punjab state, where Sikhs extremists have killed about 2,300 people this year in their bloody campaign for a separate nation in the provinces.

Shortly afterwards he and his weeping wife drove away for an undisclosed destination. A leading newspaper reported the couple would seek refuge in a mountain village in the northeast, near the border with communist North Korea.

Chun's apology followed a script basically dictated by the government of his elected successor Roh Tae-woo, which sought

a compromise avoiding the necessity of hauling him through the courts.

Despite the ritual self-abasement, however, and the news that he would hand over more than \$20 million in political funds, it was not at all clear that the parliamentary opposition and campus radicals would let things rest there.

Kim Dae-Jung, long the symbol of democratic resistance to Chun's iron regime, said he felt the 27-minute televised statement was quite insufficient to clear the people's suspicions."

Kim told a news conference his party, the largest opposition group in parliament, would not seek Chun's arrest but would continue to demand a full investigation into alleged massive corruption and a string of brutal incidents during his rule.

Doctors in Kaitai said 20 people were killed instantly or died a few hours later.

A military band heralded the formal roll out with a stirring march called the "Stealth" fanfare.

Chun apologises, but foes demand more

SEOUL (R) — Former strongman Chun Doo Hwan solemnly apologised to South Koreans Wednesday for the scandals of his eight-year rule in hopes stilling demands that he face trial.

A downcast Chun, at times seemingly on the verge of tears, announced on television he was turning over his money and property to the state and would leave Seoul for a "quiet period of repentence" in the provinces.

Shortly afterwards he and his weeping wife drove away for an undisclosed destination. A leading newspaper reported the couple would seek refuge in a mountain village in the northeast, near the border with communist North Korea.

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